

**Related Policy and Operating Procedures:  
Policy 321; OP321; OP 321-01 through OP321-10**

## **I. OBJECTIVE**

To establish a net billing policy for Cass County Electric Cooperative (“Cooperative”) Members installing a Distributed Energy Resource system and interconnecting to the Cooperative’s distribution system.

## **II. POLICY**

### **A. Definition:**

Net billing is defined as a retail electric account that has installed a renewable Distributed Energy Resource with a nameplate less than 40 kW (AC) behind the utility’s electric meter (load-side) that serves all or part of the entire account’s energy use when operating. The meter records all kWh energy delivered to the account by the Cooperative and separately records the kWh energy produced by the Distributed Energy Resource facility not consumed by the accounts load when the Distributed Energy Resource energy is generated (excess kWh energy). The account is charged for the kWh energy delivered by the Cooperative at the retail rate. A credit/payment is given for excess kWh energy generated by the Distributed Energy Resource facility in accordance with the terms of this policy and the Interconnection Agreement.

### **B. Introduction:**

Net-billing is available to Members who generate energy and interconnect to the Cooperative’s electrical grid consistent with this policy, the Interconnection Process, other applicable Cooperative policies, and any applicable legal requirements.

Net-billing applies to generating systems that use one of the renewable technologies defined by North Dakota Century Code § 49-02-25 at a single point of common coupling (PCC).

### **C. Procedure for application approval**

The Cooperative will approve net-billing applications on a first-come, first-served basis. The criterion for the approval is as follows:

1. The net-billing application is complete and received by the Cooperative along with the appropriate fee established in Operating Procedure OP321.

2. The Cooperative will respond within ten business days after the application is received to notify the Member that the application has been received and whether they may proceed with the Interconnection Process or if more information is required.
3. Once the Member is given written approval, the Member has 12 months from the approval date for the system to be operational. If the system is not operational within this time frame, the Interconnection Application will be reviewed and may be given more time to complete or disallowed.

**D. Technical Requirements:**

The Member must follow the technical requirements established in the Cooperative's Interconnection Process (Operating Procedure OP321-01). The Member must also provide a separate Interconnection Application and Interconnection Agreement and the required insurance for the system to be interconnected. This information can be found on the Cooperative's website at [www.CassCountyElectric.com](http://www.CassCountyElectric.com) or is available by contacting the Cooperative's Distributed Energy Resource Interconnection Coordinator. The system must be approved for interconnection before connection to the electrical grid is allowed.

If the Member seeks to receive a capacity credit, the Member's generator must meet the guidelines established by the authorized accrediting entity that administers this aspect of power generation for the interconnected power grid in which the generation system is operated.

**E. Metering Costs:**

The Member will pay additional costs for adding a multi-channel bi-directional interval meter and any remote communication equipment associated with the meter setup to monitor the excess generation delivered to the Cooperative's system.

**F. Rates:**

A member who is determined eligible for net billing will pay electrical rates each billing period as follows:

1. The Member will pay the Cooperative for any energy supplied by the Cooperative to the Member's service location at the applicable Cooperative retail rate.
2. If, for any billing period, the Member will still be required to pay the basic monthly charge imposed by the Cooperative and taxes and fees owed by the Cooperative.
3. The energy generated by the Member at the service location during the period of times when the Member's generation exceeds the

Member's use and is purchased by the Cooperative, Minnkota will pay the Cooperative, and the Cooperative will pay the Member for the kWh of such excess energy supplied by the Member to the Cooperative distribution system at the applicable renewable energy rate.

#### **G. Non-Performance:**

The Cooperative will monitor for non-performance. The Member must inform the Cooperative and Minnkota within 30 days of major equipment failure that results in non-performance. The Member has one year from the date the system becomes non-operational to become operational, or the Member will lose their renewable resources status and, by default, net billing. The Member must again reapply for net-billing and generator interconnection as outlined by the current Net-Billing, Distributed Energy Resource policy and Interconnection Process procedures. Due to the feeder limitations on the net-billed generation account locations, it is possible that a non-performing net-billing system will not be approved to rejoin the net-billing program even if the system becomes operational again.

#### **H. Transferability of project locations**

Renewable energy generation projects approved under the Cooperative's net billing program are site specific to the Member's service location and approved only for the site listed on the initial application. Projects cannot be relocated to another site on the Cooperative's distribution system without the approval of the Cooperative. The net billing provision of a renewable energy project also remains with the initial approved service location and cannot be transferred to another site; it can only be transferred to a new owner, renter or leaser of the initial approved site.

#### **I. Modification of the Distributed Energy Resource.**

The Member Interconnecting a Distributed Energy Resource must receive written authorization from the Cooperative before making any change to the Distributed Energy Resource system that, at the discretion of the Cooperative, may have an impact on the safety or reliability of the distribution system. If the Member makes material modifications, including but not limited to an increased nameplate rating or capacity, inverter change, or type of Distributed Energy Resource without the Cooperative's prior written authorization, the Cooperative has the right to disconnect the Distributed Energy Resource system and remove them from the net-billing program.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITY**

The President/CEO is responsible for administering this policy and recommending any changes deemed desirable to the Board or its committee.

**Periodic Policy Review done by Operations & Administration Board Committee.**

Reviewed by Committee: July 30, 2012

**Adopted: September 25, 2012**

Reviewed by Committee: July 28, 2015

Reviewed by Committee: July 31, 2018

Reviewed by Committee: May 30, 2023

Revised: 08/25/2015

Revised: 08/28/2018

Revised: 10/29/2019

Revised: 6/27/2023