



# Nueces Electric Cooperative

## AGREEMENT FOR INTERCONNECTION AND PARALLEL OPERATION OF DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

This Interconnection Agreement (“Agreement”) is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by Nueces Electric Cooperative, (“Cooperative”), and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Member”), an NEC member who will own or operate DG equipment, each hereinafter sometimes referred to individually as “Party” or both referred to collectively as the “Parties”. In consideration of the mutual covenants set forth herein, the Parties agree as follows:

- 1. Scope of Agreement** – This Agreement is applicable to conditions under which the Cooperative and the Member agree that one or more generating facilities (described in Exhibit A) owned by the Member of \_\_\_\_\_ kW or less, to be interconnected at \_\_\_\_\_ kV or less (“Facilities”) may be interconnected to the Cooperative’s electric power distribution system (“System”).
- 2. Establishment of Point of Interconnection** – The point where the electric energy first leaves the wires or facilities owned by the Cooperative and enters the wires or facilities provided by Member is the “Point of Interconnection.” Cooperative and Member agree to interconnect the Facilities at the Point of Interconnection in accordance with the Cooperative’s rules, regulations, by-laws, rates, and tariffs (the “Rules”) which are incorporated herein by reference. The interconnection equipment installed by the Member (“Interconnection Facilities”) shall be in accordance with the Rules as well.
- 3. Responsibilities of Cooperative and Member for Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Facilities** – Member will, at its own cost and expense, install, operate, maintain, repair, and inspect, and shall be fully responsible for, its Facilities and Interconnection Facilities, unless otherwise specified on Exhibit A. Member shall conduct operations of its Facilities and Interconnection Facilities in a safe and reliable manner, in compliance with all aspects of the Rules, and in accordance with industry standard prudent engineering practice. The Cooperative shall conduct operations of its electric distribution facilities in compliance with all aspects of the Rules, or as further described and mutually agreed to in the applicable Facilities Schedule attached hereto as Exhibit A. Maintenance of Facilities and Interconnection Facilities shall be performed in accordance with the applicable manufacturers’ recommended maintenance schedule. The Member agrees to cause its Facilities and Interconnection Facilities to be constructed in accordance with the Rules and specifications equal to or better than those provided by the National Electrical Safety Code and the National Electrical Code, both codes approved by the American National Standards Institute, in effect at the time of construction.

The Member covenants and agrees to cause the design, installation, maintenance, and operation of, its Facilities and Interconnection Facilities to reasonably minimize the likelihood of a malfunction or other disturbance, damaging or otherwise affecting or impairing the System. Member shall, at its expense,

provide, install, own, operate and maintain protection facilities, including such protective and regulating devices as required by the Cooperative or as are otherwise required by industry standard prudent engineering practice in order to protect persons and property and to minimize detrimental effects to the System. Member shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations, zoning codes, building codes, safety rules and environmental restrictions applicable to the design, installation, operation and maintenance of its Facilities and Interconnection Facilities. Member shall obtain all environmental and other permits lawfully required by governmental authorities prior to the commencement of construction of the Facilities and the Interconnection Facilities.

Cooperative will notify Member if there is evidence that the Facilities' or Interconnection Facilities' operation causes disruption or deterioration of service to other customers served from the System or if the Facilities' or Interconnection Facilities' operation causes damage to the System. Member will notify the Cooperative of any emergency or hazardous condition or occurrence with the Member's Facilities or Interconnection Facilities, which could affect safe operation of the System.

**4. Operator in Charge** – The Member shall each identify an individual (by name or title) who will perform as “Operator in Charge” of the Facilities and the Member portion of the Interconnection Facilities. This individual must be familiar with this Agreement as well as provisions of the Rules and any other agreements or regulations that may apply.

**5. Modifications** – Either party may undertake modifications to its facilities; provided that the Member shall not increase the output of its Facilities or make other material changes or modifications to the configuration or operation of its Facilities or Interconnection Facilities without the prior written consent of the Cooperative. In the event that the Member plans to undertake a modification that reasonably may be expected to impact the System, the Member shall provide the Cooperative with sufficient information regarding such modifications so that the Cooperative can evaluate the potential impact of such modification prior to commencement of the work.

**6. Power Sales to Retail Provider** - At the option of the Member:

Member's chosen retail provider will purchase no output from the generating installation while allowing the Member to use the output to offset the Member 's total consumption, with the Member 's meter(s) modified to prevent reverse metering;

OR

Member's chosen retail provider will purchase the output of Member 's generating installation as measured by a second meter which records the output while charging the Member for the Member 's consumption. **Member must contact their chosen retail provider to execute this option.** If the option of selling power to the Cooperative is exercised, there will be, in addition to the minimum monthly bill requirements under applicable service rate schedule(s), a customer service charge of \$12.00 per month for metering and billing

**7. Limitation of Liability and Indemnification**

a. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement, with respect to the Cooperative's provision of electric service to Member and the services provided by the Cooperative pursuant to this Agreement, Cooperative's liability to Member shall be limited as set forth in the Cooperative's tariffs and terms and conditions for electric service, which are incorporated herein by reference.

b. For the purposes of this Agreement, a Force Majeure event is any event: (a) that is beyond the reasonable control of the affected party; and (b) that the affected party is unable to prevent or

provide against by exercising reasonable diligence, including the following events or circumstances, but only to the extent that they satisfy the preceding requirements: acts of war, public disorder, rebellion or insurrection; floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, lighting, storms or other natural calamities; explosions or fires; strikes, work stoppages or labor disputes; embargoes; and sabotage. If a Force Majeure event prevents a party from fulfilling any obligations under this agreement, such party will promptly notify the other party in writing and will keep the other party informed on a continuing basis as to the scope and duration of the Force Majeure event. The affected party will specify the circumstances of the Force Majeure event, its expected duration and the steps that the affected party is taking to mitigate the effect of the event on its performance. The affected party will be entitled to suspend or modify its performance of obligations under this Agreement but will use reasonable efforts to resume its performance as soon as possible.

c. Notwithstanding Paragraph 7.b of this Agreement, the Member shall assume all liability for and shall indemnify the Cooperative and its members, trustees, directors, officers, managers, employees, agents, representatives, affiliates, successors and assigns for and shall hold them harmless from and against any claims, losses, costs, and expenses of any kind or character to the extent that they result from Member's negligence or other wrongful conduct in connection with the design, construction, installation, operation or maintenance of the Facilities or Interconnection Facilities. Such indemnity shall include, but is not limited to, financial responsibility for (a) monetary losses; (b) reasonable costs and expenses of defending an action or claim; (c) damages related to death or injury; (d) damages to property; and (e) damages for the disruption of business.

d. Cooperative and Member shall each be responsible for the safe installation, maintenance, repair and condition of their respective lines, wires, switches, or other equipment or property on their respective sides of the Point of Interconnection. The Cooperative does not assume any duty of inspecting the Member's lines, wires, switches, or other equipment or property and will not be responsible therefor. Member assumes all responsibility for the electric service supplied hereunder and the facilities used in connection therewith at or beyond the Point of Interconnection.

e. For the mutual protection of the Member and the Cooperative, only with Cooperative prior written authorization are the connections between the Cooperative's service wires and the Member's service entrance conductors to be energized.

**8. Testing and Testing Records** – The Member shall provide to the Cooperative all records of testing. Testing of protection systems for intermediate and large units shall be limited to records of compliance with standard acceptance procedures and by industry standards and practices. These records shall include testing at the start of commercial operation and periodic testing thereafter. Factory testing of pre-packaged Interconnection Facilities and the protective systems of small units shall be acceptable. In the case of a factory test, the Member needs to provide a written description and certification by the factory of the test, the test results, and the qualification of any independent testing laboratory. In addition, the settings of the equipment being installed are to be approved by the Cooperative prior to DG operation. Cooperative shall have the right, but shall have no obligation or responsibility to observe Member's tests and inspections of its Facilities and Interconnection Facilities. The foregoing rights may be exercised by the Cooperative from time to time as deemed necessary by the Cooperative upon reasonable notice to Member. However, the exercise or non-exercise by the Cooperative of any of the foregoing rights of observation, review or inspection shall be construed neither as an endorsement or confirmation of any aspect, feature, element, or condition of the Facilities or Interconnection Facilities or the operation thereof, nor as a warranty as to the fitness, safety, desirability, or reliability of same.

**9. Right of Access, Equipment Installation, Removal & Inspection** – The Cooperative may send an employee, agent or contractor to the premises of the Member at any time whether before, during or after the time the Facilities first produce energy to inspect the Facilities and Interconnection Facilities, and observe the Facility’s installation, commissioning (including any testing), startup, operation, and maintenance.

The Cooperative shall have access to the disconnect switch and meter(s) at all times. The Cooperative's LIABILITY IS LIMITED in accordance with its tariff and Producer agrees to indemnify and hold the Cooperative harmless from all claims except as specified in the Rules.

At any time Cooperative shall have access to Member’s premises for any reasonable purpose in connection with the interconnection described in this Agreement, the Rules, or to provide service to its customers.

**10. Disconnection of Facilities** – Member retains the option to disconnect its Facilities from the System, provided that Member notifies the Cooperative of its intent to disconnect by giving the Cooperative at least thirty (30) days’ prior written notice. Such disconnection shall not be a termination of this Agreement unless Member exercises its Termination Rights under Section 14.

Member shall disconnect Facilities from the System upon the effective date of any termination resulting from and required by actions under Section 14.

Cooperative shall have the right to disconnect or cause the Member to disconnect the Facilities from the System and suspend service in cases where continuance of service to Member will endanger persons, property or the operation of the System. During the forced outage of the System serving Member, Cooperative shall have the right to suspend service and disconnect or cause the Member to disconnect the Facilities from the System to effect repairs on the System, but the Cooperative shall use its reasonable efforts to provide the Member with reasonable prior notice.

**11. Metering** – The Cooperative shall purchase, own, install and maintain such metering equipment as may be necessary to meter the electrical output of the Facilities. All costs associated therewith shall be borne by the Member. Metering shall meet accuracy standards required for equivalent electrical services and can be done with standard meters or any devices that meet data collection and accuracy requirements. For Facilities greater than 200 kW, telemetry may be required by Cooperative to monitor real-time output and other DG functions for large and medium generators that are operated remotely<sup>1</sup>. Telemetry data shall be available to the Cooperative and the communication of such data shall be compatible with the Cooperative’s communication methods.

**12. Disconnect:** The Member shall pay for and install a lockable, manually operable, visible load-break disconnecting device in a location readily accessible to Cooperative personnel to isolate inverter unit for safety purposes.

**13. Insurance** – Member shall carry adequate insurance coverage that shall be acceptable to the Cooperative.

**14. Effective Term and Termination Rights** – This Agreement becomes effective when executed by both Parties and shall continue in effect until terminated. This Agreement may be terminated as follows: (a) Member may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving the Cooperative at least sixty (60) days’ written notice; (b) Cooperative may terminate upon failure by the Member to generate energy from the

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<sup>1</sup> Telemetry is not required if it is prevented via protective relaying from injecting energy into the Cooperative distribution system.

Facilities within six (6) months after completion of the interconnection; (c) either Party may terminate by giving the other Party at least thirty (30) days prior written notice that the other Party is in default of any of the terms and conditions of the Agreement or the Rules or any rate schedule, tariff, regulation, contract, or policy of the Cooperative, so long as the notice specifies the basis for termination and there is opportunity to cure the default; (d) Cooperative may terminate by giving Member at least sixty (60) days notice in the event that there is a material change in an applicable law, or any requirement of the Cooperative's wholesale electric suppliers or of any transmission utility, independent system operator or regional transmission organization having responsibility for the operation of any part of the System.

**15. Compliance with Laws, Rules and Tariffs** – Both the Cooperative and the Member shall be responsible for complying with the laws of the state of Texas and the Rules. The interconnection and services provided under this Agreement shall at all times be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Rules, which Rules are hereby incorporated into this Agreement by this reference. The Cooperative shall have the right to publish changes in any of the Rules at any time.

**16. Severability** – If any portion or provision of this Agreement is held or adjudged for any reason to be invalid or illegal or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed separate and independent and the remainder of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

**17. Amendment** – This Agreement may be amended only upon mutual agreement of the Parties, which amendment will not be effective until reduced to writing and executed by the Parties.

**18. Entirety of Agreement and Prior Agreements Superseded** – This Agreement, including the Rules and all attached Exhibits and Facilities Schedules, which are expressly made a part hereof for all purposes, constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the Parties with regard to the interconnection of the facilities of the Parties at the Points of Interconnection expressly provided for in this Agreement. The Parties are not bound by or liable for any statement, representation, promise, inducement, understanding, or undertaking of any kind or nature (whether written or oral) with regard to the subject matter hereof not set forth or provided for herein or in the Member application, or other written information provided by the Member in compliance with the Rules. It is expressly acknowledged that the Parties may have other agreements covering other services not expressly provided for herein, which agreements are unaffected by this Agreement.

**19. Assignment** – At any time during the term of this Agreement, the Member may assign this Agreement to a corporation, an entity with limited liability or an individual (the "Assignee") to whom the Member transfers ownership of the Facilities; provided that the Member obtains the consent of the Cooperative in advance of the assignment. The Cooperative's consent will be based on a determination that the Assignee is financially and technically capable to assume ownership and/or operation of the Facilities, which will not be unreasonably withheld. The company or individual to which this Agreement is assigned will be responsible for the proper operation and maintenance of the Facilities, and must agree in writing to be subject to all provisions of this Agreement. Cooperative may also assign the Agreement to another entity with the written approval of the Member.

**20. Notices** – Notices given under this Agreement are deemed to have been duly delivered if hand delivered or sent by United States certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, to:

(a) If to Cooperative:

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(b) If to Member:

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The above-listed names, titles, and addresses of either Party may be changed by written notification to the other, notwithstanding Section 18.

**21. Other Costs** – Producer agrees to reimburse Cooperative for all future costs, including:

1. costs required to correct the quality of service provided by Producers, or
2. costs of modifications to Cooperative’s system in order to purchase or continue to purchase Producer’s output, or
3. costs associated with meter reading, billing or other activities engaged in by Cooperative as a result of the purchase of the Producer’s output.

These costs may include, but are not limited to, the costs of special interconnection equipment, protective devices, control devices, upgrading of distribution system components, associated engineering and general and administrative expenses, maintenance and repair costs of the modifications and equipment, and other just and reasonable costs which are allocable to the Producer’s small power generating installation.

**22. Limitations (No Third-Party Beneficiaries, Waiver, etc.)** – This Agreement is not intended to and does not create rights, remedies, or benefits of any character whatsoever in favor of any persons, corporations, associations, or entities other than the Parties, and the obligations herein assumed are solely for the use and benefit of the Parties. This Agreement may not be assigned by the Member without the prior written consent of the Cooperative as specified in Section 18. The failure of a Party to this Agreement to insist, on any occasion, upon strict performance of any provision of this Agreement will not be considered to waive the obligations, rights, or duties imposed upon the Parties.

**23. Headings** – The descriptive headings of the various articles and sections of this Agreement have been inserted for convenience of reference only and are to be afforded no significance in the interpretation or construction of this Agreement.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be signed by their respective duly authorized representatives.

NUECES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

[MEMBER NAME]

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBIT A**  
**LIST OF FACILITIES SCHEDULES, EQUIPMENT AND POINTS OF INTERCONNECTION**

Facility Schedule No.

Name of Point of Interconnection

*Member will, at its own cost and expense, operate, maintain, repair, and inspect, and shall be fully responsible for its Facilities, unless otherwise specified on Exhibit A.*

**FACILITIES SCHEDULE NO.**

[The following information is to be specified for each Point of Interconnection, if applicable]

1. Name:
2. Facilities location:
3. Delivery voltage:
4. Metering (voltage, location, losses adjustment due to metering location, and other):
5. Normal Operation of Interconnection:
6. One line diagram attached (check one):/ \_\_\_\_\_ Yes / \_\_\_\_\_ No
7. Facilities to be furnished by Cooperative:
8. Facilities to be furnished by Member:
9. Cost Responsibility:
10. Control area interchange point (check one): / \_\_\_\_\_ Yes / \_\_\_\_\_ No
11. Supplemental terms and conditions attached (check one): / \_\_\_\_\_ Yes / \_\_\_\_\_ No

NUECES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

[MEMBER NAME]

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_