

INTERCONNECTION AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR QUALIFYING FACILITIES (QF)

- A. **Interconnection Standards** – Qualifying Facilities (QF) will meet the interconnection and safety requirements and standards as specified in NMPRC Rule 571 (17 NMAC 10.571) listed as follows:

Protection Requirements: The QF at a minimum will provide the following protection for the interconnected operation:

1. Disconnect switch – QF is to install a disconnect switch of sufficient rating such that when the switch is open and can be locked, there is a visible opening of the circuit at the point of connection to the Utility's system
 2. Back-Feed protection – to insure that the QF does not energize the Utility's facilities during Utility system disturbances
 3. Synchronization protection – to insure the QF system is synchronized with the Utility prior to coming on line so that the QF will not cause disturbances to be seen by other Utility consumers
 4. Frequency protection – to be provided to maintain the frequency output of the QF within acceptable limits as prescribed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) limits
 5. Fault protection – to prevent short circuits of the QF system from causing system disturbances from being seen by other Utility consumers
 6. Overload protection – to protect operating personnel from the QF back-feeding into a fault on the Utility's system
 7. Lightning protection – to prevent lightning problems from causing damage to the Utility's equipment
 8. Harmonics correction – the QF is to prevent harmonic levels from causing problems for other Utility consumers
 9. Communication interference correction – if the QF causes any communication interference, they will be required to install equipment to correct the problem
- B. **Schematic requirement** – the schematic or drawing will be reviewed to insure that the devices listed in Section A above and their ratings have been addressed for the proposed QF
- C. **Code requirements** – the QF will be required to meet all applicable safety and performance standards, including those established by the National Electric Code, National Electric Safety Code, the IEEE, Underwriters Laboratories, local and state codes, and all additional safety and performance standards of the Utility or adopted by the NMPRC pursuant to NMPRC Rule 571, 17 NMAC 10.571 that are necessary to protect public safety and system reliability.
- D. **Permit requirement** – a permit issued by the State of New Mexico Construction Industries Division shall be turned in to the Utility before the QF is connected to the

Utility's system

- E. **Notification of Initial Testing** – the QF shall notify the Utility 10 working days prior to putting the QF on line so that the Utility's representative may be present during initial testing. This test is to be conducted during normal business hours for the utility or the QF may be charged for overtime charges incurred by the Utility.
- F. **Access requirements** – the QF will be required to provide access and Right of Way to the Utility so that they may inspect the facility at any time. The QF will be required to supply the Utility with all combinations to locks or allow the Utility to install their own lock so that the Utility will have access to the facility.
- G. **Limitations** – the Utility may develop additional provisions for case-by-case requirements and standards for certain facilities based on their size and location. The Rural Utility Service (RUS) may require additional conditions for its borrowers (of which the Utility is one). A QF is responsible for identifying and furnishing the Utility with other standards, which the contract should contain, because of any unique characteristics of the QF or of potential effects from the QF's operation, which the QF should reasonably know. Nothing in this statement shall preclude the Utility from evaluating each request for interconnection on its own merits, subject to NMPRC Rule 571, (17 NMAC 10.571).