

## **ORCAS POWER AND LIGHT COOPERATIVE MEMBER SERVICE POLICY 13**

### **Interconnection of Member-owned Distributed Energy Resource Facilities**

This policy covers interconnection of any member owned generating facilities, storage facilities, or other facilities supplying energy to the distribution system of Orcas Power and Light Cooperative (“OPALCO” or “cooperative”), herein referred to as distributed energy resource (DER). This interconnection policy for DER facilities specifies the minimum requirements and conditions for non-utility-owned electric resources that will be interconnected for the purpose of parallel operation with the OPALCO electrical system. DER facilities will be permitted to interconnect to OPALCO’s distribution system only after OPALCO determines that the operation of the member’s DER facility will be safe and effective and will not interfere with normal operation of OPALCO’s electrical systems.

#### **13.1 AVAILABILITY**

Available to qualifying facilities subject to the limitations below:

- 13.1.1 The DER must be supplying energy to the cooperative’s distribution system with solar, wind, battery storage or other distributed energy resources.
- 13.1.2 All DER facilities on OPALCO’s system must be contracted solely between the member and the Cooperative; no third-party aggregator systems are permitted. For the purpose of this policy “aggregator” and/or “aggregation” is defined as third parties that in any way disrupt the direct relationship between the cooperative and the member.
- 13.1.3 Qualifying facilities must adhere to any of OPALCO’s power purchasing contract provisions for interconnection of generation or other qualifying facilities.

#### **13.2 CHARACTER OF SERVICE**

Service where the member has elected to interconnect DER facilities with OPALCO’s distribution facilities. The DER facility may be used to offset the member’s own electrical requirements or to generate power to sell to OPALCO. Single phase 120/240 or three phase 277/480 or 120/208 service, at 60 Hz are available. Any service upgrades necessary must comply with MS Policy 5 – *Line Extension*.

#### **13.3 PRODUCED ENERGY**

- 13.3.1 Members interconnecting DER facilities with an inverter nameplate rating of less than 25 kW shall be under the appropriate tariff.
- 13.3.2 Members interconnecting DER facilities with an inverter nameplate rating of 25 kW or greater shall execute a Power Purchase Agreement with the cooperative prior to operation of the DER system.

#### **13.4 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

##### **13.4.1 Design Requirements**

- 13.4.1.1 All equipment used to interconnect to OPALCO’s system shall be UL listed for the intended use.
- 13.4.1.2 All systems shall comply with current state code, current national codes, and the cooperative’s interconnection guidelines.
- 13.4.1.3 DER facilities shall have the ability to be monitored by OPALCO via communications protocols defined in the cooperative’s interconnection guidelines.
- 13.4.1.4 DER facilities, including charging electric vehicles connected to commercial or public services, shall have the ability to be controlled by

OPALCO via communications protocols defined in the cooperative's interconnection guidelines.

#### 13.4.2 Interruption or Reduction of Deliveries

13.4.2.1 OPALCO shall not be obligated to accept deliveries of excess energy and may require member to interrupt or reduce such deliveries:

13.4.2.1.1 When necessary, to construct, install, maintain, repair, replace, remove, investigate, or inspect any of its equipment or part of its system; or

13.4.2.1.2 If it determines that curtailment, interruption, or reduction is necessary because of emergencies, forced outages, or compliance with prudent electrical utility practices.

13.4.2.2 Whenever possible, OPALCO shall give the member reasonable notice of the possibility that interruption or reduction of deliveries may be required.

13.4.2.3 Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, if, at any time OPALCO determines that either (1) the facility may endanger any of the cooperative's personnel or (2) the continued operation of member's facility may endanger the integrity of the cooperative's electric system, the cooperative shall have the right to disconnect member's generation facility from the cooperative's electric system. The member's facility shall remain disconnected until such time as OPALCO is satisfied that the condition which necessitated the disconnection has been corrected.

#### 13.4.3 Interconnection

13.4.3.1 OPALCO reserves the right to require interconnection studies, additional or upgraded facilities, and the interconnection method. Technical provisions for interconnection shall be provided via the cooperative's interconnection guidelines.

13.4.3.2 Member shall pay for designing, installing, operating, maintaining and any other associated costs of the generating facility and system upgrades, per Member Service Policy 5 – *Line Extensions*, and shall be in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and cooperative guidelines and policies.

13.4.3.3 Member shall not commence parallel operation of the DER facility until written approval of the interconnection facilities has been given by OPALCO.

#### 13.4.4 Maintenance and Permits

13.4.4.1 Member shall maintain the DER facility and interconnection facilities in a safe and prudent manner and in conformance with all applicable laws and regulations.

13.4.4.2 Member shall obtain any governmental authorizations and permits required for the construction and operation of the DER facility and interconnection facilities. Member shall reimburse the cooperative for all losses, damages, claims, penalties, or liability it incurs because of member's failure to obtain or maintain any governmental authorizations

and permits required for construction and operation of member's generating facility or failure to properly maintain member's facility.

13.4.4.3 Member shall obtain appropriate insurance coverage before operation and provide evidence to OPALCO of such insurance, including liability coverage.

13.4.5 Indemnity and Liability

Member shall save harmless, release and indemnify OPALCO, its officers, directors, employees other members, and its agents, from any loss, claims or expenses, including but not limited to damages fines, and any other payments arising out of member's actions or inaction in the development and operation, or failures thereof, of its DER facilities and implementing this policy.

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*Foster Hildreth*

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Foster Hildreth, General Manager

September 21, 2023

Effective Date