



# UPDATES

June 2016

## Recent Updates Sent to NEM Customers



For Hawaiian Electric, we sent a letter in April to NEM applicants who had been waiting for conditional approval to install their rooftop solar systems and recently sent a follow-up status letter. These letters give a general overview of what actions have been taken and what is coming next. We have also committed to sending a status update in another 60 days.

In the past two years, we have gained a better understanding of the impacts rooftop solar systems have on circuits with high amounts of installed solar and we continue to explore and develop new solutions to interconnect more customers. We thank you for your continued patience as we work to find technical solutions that will make it possible to conditionally approve these customers.

## Updated Forms

Based on your input and recommendations, we have updated our Application Cover Form and Validation Cover Form. These updates should streamline the application process. The term “cover form” has often been used interchangeably to describe both the Application Cover Form and Validation Cover Form, which has led to some confusion. Therefore, we have renamed these two documents to: *Application Submittal Form* and *Validation Form*. In addition, the Distributed Energy Resources Manual has been updated to reflect the changes.

## Submitting Validation Packages

In our last newsletter, we announced that all companies would begin requiring validation packages via mail instead of e-mail. Effective immediately, Hawaiian Electric and Hawai'i Electric Light will again allow these through e-mail. Please be sure the subject line “Validation: ##-#### (agreement ID)” is used for e-mail. For Maui Electric, please continue to mail validation packages.

Based on the volume of applications received for Hawaiian Electric, we request that you send all of the validation requirements for a customer in a single package. If any part of the validation package is missing or incorrect, we ask that you re-send the entire package (with the corrections made) in order to streamline the review process and reduce the response turnaround time. For Maui Electric and Hawai'i Electric Light, customers do not need to re-send the entire packet. Only the corrected or missing items are required.

If you have any questions regarding this topic, or would like to attend a workshop on this topic, please feel free to contact us.

## Full Ride-through Compliance for NEM Systems

Last year, many NEM applications were executed with Interim Ride-through settings only. In order to do so, these customers were required to sign an addendum stating that they agreed to meet the Full Ride-Through settings within one year of their Conditional Approval date. For most of these systems, that timeframe has passed.

Please work with your customers to ensure that all NEM systems that were conditionally approved after February 9, 2016 meet the Full Ride-through settings. In many cases these changes can be made remotely, if the inverters are internet-enabled. However, in some situations, you may need to physically access the inverters to update the settings. Once the settings are updated, please send us confirmation in the form of a screenshot/photo.

## Modifying NEM Systems

Here are a couple scenarios you need to be aware of when making modifications to existing approved NEM systems.

### Executed NEM Systems

Any proposed modification to a NEM system must be reviewed by the Hawaiian Electric Companies and may be required to undergo additional technical review. NEM systems may not be modified without prior approval from the Hawaiian Electric Companies.

Under the NEM program, you may not increase capacity of an executed NEM system. Please keep in mind that if existing equipment is damaged and needs replacement, you must keep the system's capacity at or below what was originally approved. Adding battery storage to an existing NEM system is allowable, as long as it does not add any exporting capacity and does not increase the rated system size.

If a customer decides to add capacity, the entire system must be transferred to the Customer Grid Supply or Customer Self Supply programs and an application for one of the programs must be submitted. All inverters, including those already installed, must meet current advanced inverter standards in order to qualify for those programs.

### Unexecuted NEM Systems

As noted in a previous newsletter, you may increase the system size of an unexecuted NEM system by up to 1kW for Hawaiian Electric and Maui Electric and 100 Watts for Hawai'i Electric Light over the size originally approved. Please remember to include a written reasonable justification for the increase.

### Quick Tips

- If property ownership or signing authority is not clear based on the City and County Tax Map site, please submit documentation to clearly establish this.
- Always put the meter number and TMK on your electrical line drawings.
- Check to be sure that the inverter and module manufacturer and model number on the electrical line drawings match what is shown in the agreement.
- We will send a notice of receipt whenever a new agreement comes in. If you don't receive a notice of receipt within a week, we may not have received your agreement and we encourage you to follow up with us to check if it was received.
- Any change in equipment (type of inverter, etc.) for a Customer Grid Supply or Customer Self Supply agreement forfeits your spot in the queue and triggers a new technical review.
- Please wait until conditional approval is received before installing the solar system. Installation before conditional approval puts customers at risk of unexpected costs and may result in delays in customers using their newly installed system. Each county has different requirements. In Maui County, please remember that you are unable to receive a permit for the project until it is conditionally approved. We want our customers to be satisfied with the rooftop solar process and we value our partnership with you.
- Before submitting a new Customer Grid Supply agreement, it's a good idea to check if the customer had already applied for the NEM program. Ask the customer, or if they are unsure, please contact us.

### Remaining CGS Program Capacity

The PUC has set a capacity limit by service territory for the Customer Grid Supply program. The table below displays current megawatt (MWac) accepted and available based on total capacity specified.

As of 6/14/16†			
Island	Total Capacity MWac	Current Level MWac*	Remaining MWac
Hawaiian Electric	25.00	14.76	10.28
Maui Electric**	5.00	4.57	0.43
Hawai'i Electric Light	5.00	2.78	2.22

\* Includes all applications that are undergoing and have passed completeness review

\*\* Includes Maui, Molokai and Lanai

† Updated weekly

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