

# Exception Policy for DER Sub-metering under ESB 750



Two currently offered Distributed Energy Resource (DER) programs available to National Grid customers require a National Grid-owned meter to be installed on the generation source prior to its interconnection point, in addition to a service meter at the point of common coupling. In Massachusetts and Rhode Island, these metering requirements currently apply to the SMART and RE Growth programs, respectively. These generation (or “sub-meter”) requirements have highlighted the long-standing Company specification to group all service meters together in one location as required in Electric Service Bulletin (ESB) 750, also known as the “Blue Book.”

In some cases, the existing service meter of a customer is located separate and remote from the point of connection of the DER to the premise being served, and co-location of the meters could cause additional cost for the customer. As the result of customer feedback on the application of the meter grouping specification in ESB 750 to the sub-meters required by these DER programs, National Grid initiated a review of its current policies through its Standards for Electrical Interconnection Committee (SEIC).

The SEIC found there is need to revise the existing ESB 750 requirement regarding the grouping of all meters in order to better align with the DER support programs available to customers today, and to enable flexibility to place Company meters in arrangements that are more logical to the electrical design in appropriate circumstances. ESB 750 section 7.1.9 will be revised to incorporate an exception, as described below. This change in Company standards is solely for the purpose of sub-metering of DERs.

## **7.1.9 Group Metering**

Where two or more meters are to be installed, all shall be grouped at one location. Prior to the Company setting the meters, each meter position shall be permanently marked by the Customer to clearly identify the space or apartment to which it is connected.

Where the Customer desires to provide either a meter center (multi-socket panel base assembly) or a pedestal style metering assembly, they must be approved by the Company prior to installation. See Section 7.2 for specifications. Meter centers and metering assemblies are limited to either 120/240 V or 208Y/120 V or 277/480 V or 480Y/277 V, with individual meters rated for either 100, 150, 200 or 320 A.

### **Exception:**

Distributed energy resources (DER) may require special arrangements such as a dedicated Company meter acting as a “sub-meter” in addition to the main service meter. There are select cases in which grouping of the Company meters may not be feasible, such as when a required DER sub-meter is:

## Exception Policy for DER Sub-metering under ESB 750

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1. located beyond the service equipment and the location of the service meter is remote from the location of the DER point of interconnection to the premise electric system, or
2. connected to a supply side tap of a service where the existing meter is remote from the structure and the tap location is at the structure. Where Company approved distributed generation or energy storage devices require additional Company meter(s), the sub-meter(s) may be located remote from the service meter based on one of the above described cases provided all the following apply:
  - The associated DER isolation disconnect (see ESB 756), when required, shall be located adjacent to the sub-meter.
  - Labeling requirements for DER devices and utility meters shall apply in accordance with ESB 756.
  - All other sections of 7.0 apply as appropriate.

This exception policy is in effect immediately in National Grid's service territory in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York and will apply to any application that meets the conditions of the exception. The applicant will still need to provide details of the location of the new sub-meter(s), which will be subject to review by National Grid representatives and be subject to all other requirements of ESB 750, Section 7, as noted. This may require a field visit by Company meter service personnel prior to approval of the location, per the standard practices for establishing a new meter location.

Required documents for approval of a new meter location should be submitted along with the application for interconnection by any applicant seeking to locate a sub-meter remote from the service meter pursuant to the exception. These documents will include at a minimum a site plan with the specific location of the sub-meter(s) required by the DER program, and the distance between the existing service meter and the sub-meter(s) indicated on the plan.

Please contact **[distributed.generation@nationalgrid.com](mailto:distributed.generation@nationalgrid.com)**, for additional details on the submission requirements for your specific installation.

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