

Glossary of Terms

Administrator – The qualified person or entity selected by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to oversee the process for assurance of Net Metering Services.

Application for Cap Allocation (ACA) – The prescribed form containing the information (and including supporting documentation and Certification) necessary to determine eligibility for a Cap Allocation or a position on the Waiting List.

Agricultural Net Metering Facility – A Renewable Energy generating facility that is operated as part of an agricultural business, generates electricity, does not have a generation capacity of more than two megawatts, is located on land owned or controlled by the agricultural business, and is used to provide energy to metered accounts of the business. “Agriculture” has the same meaning as provided in M.G.L. c. 128, § 1A; provided that, when necessary, the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources shall determine if a business is an agricultural business and whether the facility is operated as part of that business.

Business Day – A day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or a public holiday as observed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Massachusetts legal holidays are available at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cishol/holidx.htm>. (Note: public holidays do not include Suffolk County holidays for the purposes of the System of Assurance.)

Cap Allocation – An assurance that a Host Customer will receive Net Metering Services upon a Host Customer’s receipt of notice of authorization to interconnect.

Class I Net Metering Facility – A plant or equipment that is used to produce, manufacture, or otherwise generate electricity and that is not a transmission facility and that has a design capacity of 60 kilowatts or less.

Class II Net Metering Facility – An Agricultural Net Metering Facility, Solar Net Metering Facility, or Wind Net Metering Facility with a generating capacity of more than 60 kilowatts but less than or equal to one megawatt; provided, however, that a Class II Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity may have a generating capacity of more than 60 kilowatts but less than or equal to one megawatt per unit.

Class III Net Metering Facility – An Agricultural Net Metering Facility, Solar Net Metering Facility, or Wind Net Metering Facility with a generating capacity of more than one megawatt but less than or equal to two megawatts; provided, however, that a Class III Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity may have a generating capacity of more than one megawatt but less than or equal to two megawatts per unit.

Certification – A written statement based on knowledge, information, and belief that the relevant claims are true.

Customer – Any person, partnership, corporation, or any other entity, whether public or private, who obtains distribution service at a customer delivery point and who is a customer of record of the Distribution Company for its own electricity consumption.

Distribution Company – NSTAR Electric Company, National Grid, Western Massachusetts Electric Company, and Unitil.

Effective Date – The date on which this system of assurance for Net Metering shall first apply as determined by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities. The Effective Date is January 24, 2013 at 12:00 PM.

Exempt Facility – A Class I Net Metering Facility that is not a Net Metering facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity if:

- (a) it is a Renewable Energy generating facility; and
- (b) its nameplate rating is equal to or less than
 1. ten kilowatts on a single-phase circuit; or
 2. 25 kilowatts on a three-phase circuit.

Facility – A plant or equipment eligible to become a Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility.

Host Customer – A Customer with a Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility that generates electricity on the Customer's side of the meter. Host Customer includes a prospective Host Customer.

Host Customer Administrator (HCAAdmin) – Individual in lead role for Host Customer Entity (HCEntity). This person is authorized to start and revise ACAs, add users, and submit ACAs for review.

Host Customer Assistant (HCAssistant) – Individual acting on behalf of Host Customer Entity (HCEntity) in supportive role. This person can revise existing ACAs, but cannot submit ACAs for review.

Host Customer Entity (HCEntity) – A Customer with a Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility that generates electricity on the Customer's side of the meter. Host Customer includes a prospective Host Customer.

Interconnection ID Number – The unique identification number assigned by the Distribution Company to a Facility's Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA).

Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA) – The agreement for interconnection service entered into between the interconnecting Customer and a Distribution Company, as defined and provided in each Distribution Company's standards for interconnection of distributed generation.

Ministerial Permit – A ministerial permit is a permit that is granted based upon a determination that the request complies with established standards. Such determinations are arrived at objectively, involve little or no discretionary judgment, and are usually issued by a single official or his/her designee. Non-ministerial permits are permits in which one or more officials consider(s) various factors and exercise(s) some discretion in deciding whether to issue (typically with conditions) or deny permits.

Examples of ministerial permits include, but are not limited to building permits and electrical permits.

Examples of non-ministerial permits include, but are not limited to wetlands Order of Conditions, Special Permit, Zoning Variance, Endangered Species, and MEPA Certificate.

Municipality – A city or town.

Neighborhood – A geographic area within a Municipality, subject to the right of the Department to grant exceptions pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09(6), that:

- (a) is recognized by the residents as including a unique community of interests;
- (b) falls within the service territory of a single Distribution Company and within a single ISO New England (ISO-NE) load zone; and
- (c) may encompass residential, commercial, and undeveloped properties.

Neighborhood Net Metering Facility – A Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility that:

- (a) is owned by, or serves the energy needs of, a group of ten or more residential Customers that reside in a single Neighborhood and are served by a single Distribution Company;
- (b) may also be owned by, or serve the energy needs of, other Customers who reside in the same Neighborhood and are served by the same Distribution Company as the residential Customers that own or are served by the facility; and
- (c) is located within the same Neighborhood as the Customers that own or are served by the facility.

Net Metering – The process of measuring the difference between electricity delivered by a Distribution Company and electricity generated by a Class I, Class II, Class III or Neighborhood Net Metering Facility and fed back to the Distribution Company.

Net Metering Services – Services provided by a Distribution Company to Customers and Host Customers necessary to permit Net Metering, including those related to interconnection, metering, and calculation and billing of Net Metering credits, as specified in the Distribution Company's tariff pursuant to 220 C.M.R. §§ 18.09(2) and (3).

Other Governmental Entity – A department or agency of the Federal government or of the Commonwealth, and any other entity as approved by the Department.

Private Cap – The limit on Net Metering capacity of Facilities that are not covered by the Public Cap, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 139(f).

Public Cap – The limit on Net Metering capacity of Public Facilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 139(f).

Public Entity ID – The identification number provide by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity that demonstrates its status as a Public Entity for net metering. The application form is available at http://www.massaca.org/pdf/DPU%20Order%20App%20C_App%20for%20Muni%20for%20NM%20services_7912.pdf.

Private Net Metering Facility (Private Facility) – Any facility that does not qualify as a Public Facility or Special Public Facility.

Public Net Metering Facility (Public Facility) – A Class II or III Net Metering Facility: (1) that is owned or operated by a municipality or other governmental entity; or (2) of which the municipality or other governmental entity (a) is assigned 100 percent of the output; (b) is the Host Customer; and (c) if allocating Net Metering Credits, allocates only to municipalities and other governmental entities.

Representative – An individual not associated with any HCEntity or project when registered with the System of Assurance. This person can be invited to join existing ACAs by HCAdmins. They are able to revise ACAs they are associated with, but not submit ACAs for review.

Reservation Fee – A fee of \$3.15 per kW paid to the Administrator by the Host Customer for the limited time offer of Net Metering Services held in reserve, up to the capacity requested by the Host Customer prior to the Facility's receipt of notice of authorization to interconnect.

Reservation Period – The period for which a Host Customer is entitled to an assurance of Net Metering Services prior to a Facility's receipt of notice of authorization to interconnect.

Reviewers – Administrator staff members responsible for reviewing ACAs submitted to the System of Assurance.

Solar Net Metering Facility – A facility for the production of electrical energy that uses sunlight to generate electricity and is interconnected to a Distribution Company.

Special Public Facility – A Public Facility for which: (1) the municipality or other governmental entity owns and operates the Facility; and (2) the Facility is located on property that is owned or leased by the municipality or other governmental entity.

Unit – A part or component of a Net Metering Facility. For a Wind Net Metering Facility, a unit is a wind turbine. For agricultural facilities, a unit is a single piece of generating equipment (e.g., an engine or a turbine). For solar facilities, a unit is an inverter, provided that a solar project proponent

may self-designate whether a project is a Class II or Class III Net Metering Facility when the project includes the minimum number of inverters required to qualify.

User – Any party registered with the System of Assurance.

Utility – Used as a synonym for Distribution Company.

Waiting List – A list of Host Customers that would receive a Cap Allocation if there were capacity under the applicable cap, and that may receive a Cap Allocation if capacity becomes available under the applicable cap.

Wind Net Metering Facility – A facility for the production of electrical energy that uses wind to generate electricity and is interconnected to a Distribution Company.