

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  INQUIRY INTO PURPA INTERCONNECTION STANDARD	DOCKET NO. NOI-06-4 (RMU-2009-0008)
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**ORDER CLOSING DOCKET**

(Issued September 16, 2009)

On August 8, 2005, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT 2005) was signed into law. Among the many provisions of this federal legislation are five new federal ratemaking standards added to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). The fifth of these new standards (commonly referred to as Standard 15), found in Section 211 of PURPA (16 U.S.C. 2621(d)), pertains to interconnection of distributed generation facilities. Standard 15 provides that all state utility commissions must consider and make a determination whether to adopt the standard. Standard 15, if adopted by the Utilities Board (Board), would require each rate-regulated utility to interconnect any customer's on-site generation (i.e. distributed generation) with the utility's local distribution facilities, based on Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standard 1547. Standard 15 also requires, among other things, the establishment of non-discriminatory practices and procedures that promote the best practices of interconnection of distributed generation.

The Board initiated a proceeding on July 3, 2006, to consider adopting Standard 15. After receiving comments from inquiry participants, the Board issued an order on April 25, 2007, adopting Standard 15, in part, and inviting comments on preliminary model interconnection procedures for rate-regulated utilities. Several participants filed comments on the model interconnection procedures. Three inquiry participants, the Environmental Law and Policy Center and the Distributed Generation Coalition, MidAmerican Energy Company, and the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice, filed supplemental comments on December 24, 2008. The three participants advocated the use of the interconnection rules adopted by Illinois as a starting point for revising the Board's generator interconnection rules, rather than the draft model interconnection procedures promulgated by the Board for comment on April 25, 2007, in Docket No. NOI-06-4.

Although not all inquiry participants have indicated their agreement with using the Illinois rules as a starting point, the Board believes it is time to propose amendments to 199 IAC 15 and new chapter 199 IAC 45, using the Illinois rules as a starting point, so that the process can move forward and interconnection standards for distributed generation facilities can be adopted on a timely basis. The Board is commencing a rule making proceeding, identified as Docket No. RMU-2009-0008, to consider new interconnection rules. Because a rule making proceeding is commencing, there is no reason to continue this inquiry. Docket No. NOI-06-4 will be closed.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

Docket No. NOI-06-4 is closed.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Robert B. Berntsen

/s/ Krista K. Tanner

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Darrell Hanson

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009.