

Red River Valley Co-op Power Board of Directors to address a grid access fee for members considering net-metered distributed generation per state statute 216B.164

During the 2015 Legislative Session the Minnesota Legislature passed and the Governor signed a provision that authorizes electric cooperatives to recover lost costs associated with maintaining the distribution system from members who interconnect distributed generation with Red River Valley Co-op Power.

Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association plans to address adding the following to their current net metering rate schedule.

Distributed Generation (DG) Grid Access Charge

For all distributed generation systems interconnected on or after the Board – approved date, the cooperative will bill the member a Distributed Generation (DG) Grid Access Charge. Red River Valley Co-op Power will provide 30 day notice on its website prior to the implementation of the date. The DG Grid Access Charge will be based on the cooperative's fixed costs not already paid for by the member. The cooperative will use its year end Form 7 to develop the DG Grid Access Charge on an annual basis.

The Distributed Generation (DG) Grid Access Charge is \$2.86/KW of nameplate capacity of the DG system above the first 3.5KW of nameplate capacity. The DG Grid Access Charge will not exceed the cooperative's fixed costs to serve the member based on the year end Form 7 report and there will be a cap of \$45/month for each DG system.

**For example a 10KW DG system would be billed a monthly DG Grid Access Charge of \$18.59/month. 10KW nameplate capacity system – first 3.5KW of nameplate capacity=6.5KW and 6.5KW times \$2.86/KW = \$18.59.

The cooperative is given the authority to recover the costs of service through MN State Statute 216B.164, Subd. 3: Purchases; small facilities.