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Interconnecting Distributed Generation for Your Property

A message from Phil Kinser, General Manager

Southwest Iowa REC's mission is to provide you with power that is safe, reliable, environmentally responsible and affordable. Whether the power is generated through the cooperative's generation and transmission systems, or through an individual customer's distributed generation system, we never deviate from these principles of our mission.

To ensure your own safety and that of your fellow member-consumers, ***you must notify Southwest Iowa REC if you intend to install a distributed generation system and an interconnection agreement must be in place.*** Whenever a generating resource is connected and providing power, Southwest Iowa REC must be aware that the system is in place so that our line personnel and other employees are not put in harm's way. There are a number of safety mechanisms that must be taken into account and put into place with generating facilities.

When a member-consumer's distributed generation facility, such as a wind turbine or solar panel, is generating power and serving some or all of the premise's load, while at the same time the electric cooperative is generating and serving load, the two systems are operating in parallel.

If two or more systems are operating in parallel and they are not properly interconnected with the main power supply – which comes from Southwest Iowa REC – there is a significant risk to overall system reliability and safety for all member-consumers of the cooperative.

If you have already installed a distributed generation system and have not notified Southwest Iowa REC, contact us right away. Working together we can ensure that your system is properly interconnected and that all appropriate agreements and safety mechanisms are in place.

As part of Southwest Iowa REC's commitment to system reliability, we conduct annual line inspections to identify any weaknesses in our system that need to be addressed. As part of this process, we're also able to identify any distributed generation facilities on our system. We'll assess each system to ensure the integrity of our power grid is not being compromised in any way. We know that all of you count on us for power safety and reliability, and we're committed to operating our system at the highest levels.

Please contact us today if you have any questions or to inform us of a distributed generation system.