

SUMMARY: This rule establishes the requirements- [and terms](#) for net energy billing. ~~after the introduction of retail competition.~~

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§ 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter is to implement the State's policy to encourage electricity generation from renewable resources through the adoption of requirements and standards for customer net energy billing.

§ 2 DEFINITIONS

- A. Community NEB Project.** “Community NEB project” means an eligible facility that is owned or operated by a community NEB project sponsor on behalf of community NEB subscribers
- B. Community NEB Project Sponsor.** “Community NEB project sponsor” means an entity, its successor or its assignee that owns or operates an eligible facility on behalf of community NEB subscribers.
- C. Community NEB Subscriber.** “Community NEB Subscriber” means a customer of a transmission and distribution utility who owns or has the rights to a community NEB subscription and who is identified with an account or accounts to which the subscription is attributed.
- D. Community NEB Subscription.** “Community NEB Subscription” means a proportional interest in a community NEB project. Each subscription must be sized to represent at least one kilowatt of the eligible facility capacity.
- AE. Competitive Electricity Provider.** “Competitive electricity provider” means a marketer, broker, aggregator, or any other entity selling electricity to the public at retail in Maine.
- BF. Consumer-owned Transmission and Distribution Utility.** “Consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility” has the same meaning as specified in Title 35-A M.R.S.A. §3201(6).
- CG. Customer.** “Customer” means a person or an entity that takes electricity service through a transmission and distribution utility.
- H. Eligible Customer.** “Eligible customer” means an individual customer, NEB lessee, shared ownership customer or community NEB subscriber that owns, leases or has the rights to the output of an eligible facility and is eligible for net energy billing under this Chapter.
- DI. Eligible Facility.** “Eligible facility” means an electric generating facility that uses a renewable fuel or technology as specified in 35-A M.R.S.A. §3210(2)(C) or is a micro-combined heat and power system.
- J. Entity.** “Entity” means a person or organization, including but not limited to any political, governmental, quasi-governmental, corporate, business, professional, trade, agricultural, cooperative, for-profit or nonprofit organization.

K. **GIS Certificates.** “GIS certificates” mean certificates created pursuant to NEPOOL Generation Information System that represent attributes of electric power and that may be traded separately from the energy commodity.

EL. **Micro-Combined Heat and Power System.** “Micro-Combined Heat and Power System” means a system that:

1. Produces heat and electricity from one fuel input, without restriction to specific fuel or generating technology;
2. Has an electric generating capacity rating of at least one kilowatt and not more than ~~4530~~ kilowatts and a fuel system efficiency of not less than 80% in the production of heat and electricity or has an electric generating capacity of at least ~~4634~~ kilowatts and not more than ~~one megawatt~~~~660 kilowatts~~ and a fuel system efficiency of not less than 65% in the production of heat and electricity;
3. May work in combination with supplemental or parallel conventional heating systems;
4. Is manufactured, installed and operated in accordance with applicable government and industry standards; and
5. Is connected to the electric grid and operated in conjunction with the facilities of a transmission and distribution utility.

M. **NEB Lease.** “NEB lease” means a lease of an eligible facility to an NEB eligible customer that includes rights to all of the output of the eligible facility that may be netted in accordance with this rule.

N. **NEB Lessor.** “NEB lessor” means ~~is~~ an entity that owns an eligible facility and leases the eligible facility to an NEB eligible customer including the rights to the output to the eligible facility.

FO. **Net Energy.** “Net energy” ~~means~~ is the difference between (i) the kilowatt-hours consumed by an eligible customer ~~or shared ownership customers and the kilowatt hours generated by the customer's or shared ownership customers' eligible facility~~ over a billing period ~~and (ii) the customer's nettable energy.~~

GP. **Net Energy Billing.** “Net energy billing” ~~means~~ is a billing and metering practice under which ~~eligible customers are billed on the basis of net energy, and shared ownership customers are billed on the basis of net energy over the billing period taking into account accumulated unused kilowatt-hour credits from the previous billing period.~~

O. **Nettable Energy.** “Nettable Energy” means the energy in kilowatt-hours generated by an eligible facility that may be netted in accordance with this Rule.

HR. **Ownership Interest.** “Ownership interest” means a legally enforceable ownership interest or legally enforceable rights and obligations in an eligible facility, ~~which includes the rights to the output of the eligible facility.~~

- IS. Shared Ownership Customers.** “Shared ownership customers” mean an eligible customer that has a shared ownership interest in an eligible facility.
- T. Shared Ownership Interest.** “Shared ownership interest” means a legally enforceable ownership interest or legally enforceable rights and obligations in an eligible facility under which an eligible customer has the rights to the output of the shared ownership facility and joint responsibility for the costs of the shared ownership facility. Each shared ownership interest must be sized to represent at least one kilowatt of the eligible facility capacity.
- JU. Shared Ownership Facility.** “Shared ownership facility” means an eligible facility in which more than one customer has ~~an~~ shared ownership interest.
- KY. Standard Offer Provider.** “Standard offer provider” means a provider of standard offer service chosen pursuant to Chapter 301 of the Commission's rules.
- W. Supply Bill.** “Supply bill” is the customer bill, over a billing period, for standard offer or competitive electricity provider supply service.
- X. T&D Bill.** “T&D bill” is the customer bill, over a billing period, for transmission and distribution utility service.
- LY. Transmission and Distribution Utility.** “Transmission and distribution utility” has the same meaning as specified in Title 35-A M.R.S.A. §101(20-B).

§ 3 ANNUALIZED CUSTOMER NET ENERGY BILLING

- A. Customer Qualification.** Any eligible customer of a transmission and distribution utility that owns or has the legal rights to energy generated using an eligible facility may elect net energy billing. ~~The customer may elect net energy billing~~ for customer’s accounts or meters within the transmission and distribution utility’s service territory.
- B. Service Territory.** The eligible facility and the eligible customer’s accounts subject to a net energy billing arrangement must be located within a service territory of a single transmission and distribution utility.
- C. Eligible Facilities.** An eligible facility located in a service territory of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility must have an installed capacity of 660 kW one megawatt or less. An eligible facility located in a service territory of a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility must have an installed capacity of 100 kW one hundred kilowatts or less unless the consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility elects to allow facilities with an installed capacity of up to 660 kW one megawatt to be eligible. ~~An eligible facility must be used primarily to offset part or all of the customer’s or shared ownership customers’ own electricity requirements.~~
- D. Nettable Energy**
- 1. Supply Bill.** For the purpose of determining net energy for the supply bill, nettable energy is one hundred percent of the output of an eligible facility.

2. T&D Bill. For the purpose of determining net energy for the T&D bill, nettable energy is the portion of the output of an eligible facility set forth in the table below:

T&D Bill Nettable Energy	Portion of Output that is Nettable
For existing NEB Customers as of December 31, 2016	100%
For new NEB Customers during calendar year 2017	90%
For new NEB Customers during calendar year 2018	80%
For new NEB Customers during calendar year 2019	70%
For new NEB Customers during calendar year 2020	60%
For new NEB Customers during calendar year 2021	50%
For new NEB Customers during calendar year 2022	40%
For new NEB Customers during calendar year 2023	30%
For new NEB Customers during calendar year 2024	20%
For new NEB Customers during calendar year 2025	10%
For new NEB Customers after 2025	0%

~~**Service Territory.** The eligible facility and the customer accounts subject to net energy billing must be located within a service territory of a single transmission and distribution utility.~~

EE. Billing Requirements. At the option of an eligible customer or shared ownership eligible customers ~~qualifying under this section~~, transmission and distribution utilities must bill on the basis of an annualized net energy and in accordance with the following provisions:- ~~basis as follows:~~

1. **Excess Nettable Energy Generation.** If the nettable energy ~~electricity~~ generated during the billing period by the eligible facility plus any kilowatt-hour credits from prior billing periods exceeds the customer's or the shared ownership customers' kilowatt-hour usage during the billing period, the customer shall be billed on the basis of net energy kilowatt-hours equal to zero, and the excess nettable energy shall be applied to the customer's bill or the shared ownership customers' bills for the following billing period to determine net energy for that billing period, subject to the 12-month period set forth in § 3.E.3. as a reduction in the customer's kilowatt-hour usage.
2. **Excess Usage.** If the customer's or the shared ownership customers' kilowatt-hour usage exceeds the sum of (i) nettable energy ~~electricity~~ generated by the eligible facility during the billing period and (ii) plus any excess nettable energy ~~kilowatt-hour credits~~ pursuant to subparagraph 1, the customer or the shared ownership customers shall be billed on the basis net energy for the excess kilowatt-hour usage at the applicable retail rate for electricity service.
3. **Unused Nettable Energy Credits.** A customer or shared ownership customers may accumulate unused nettable energy ~~kilowatt-hours~~ credits and apply them

against kilowatt-hour usage ~~within~~ a ~~given~~ 12-month period. At the end of each 12-month period, any accumulated unused ~~nettable energy~~~~kilowatt-hour credits~~ shall be eliminated and may not be applied against any future ~~kilowatt-hour~~ usage by the eligible customer or shared ownership customer. The customer or the shared ownership customers will receive no compensation for unused ~~nettable energy~~~~kilowatt-hour credits~~.

4. **Non-usage Charges.** Net energy billing only applies to kilowatt-hour usage charges. Net energy billing customers or the shared ownership customers are responsible for all other charges applicable to the customer's T&D rate class or supply price that are~~and~~ recovered either through fixed amounts or over units other than kilowatt-hours.

F. Term.

1. **New Net Energy Billing Arrangements.** For new net energy billing customers on or after January 1, 2017, the term of net energy billing arrangements under this Chapter is fifteen years. After the term, for the purpose of determining the customer's T&D bill, no energy from the eligible facility will be nettable energy. After the term, for the purpose of determining the customer's supply bill, nettable energy will remain as defined in this section. The net energy billing term cannot begin earlier than the time the eligible facility is installed and operational.

2. **Existing Net Energy Billing Arrangements.** For customers with net energy billing arrangements that are effective on or before December 31, 2016, the existing arrangement will remain in place through December 31, 2031. After December 31, 2031, for the purpose of determining the customer's T&D bill, no energy from the eligible facility will be nettable energy. After December 31, 2031, for the purpose of determining the customer's supply bill, nettable energy will remain as defined in this section.

~~B. **Shared Ownership Customers Qualification.** Shared ownership customers of a transmission and distribution utility that own or have the legal rights to energy generated using an eligible facility may elect net energy billing as specified in this subsection.~~

1. ~~**Ownership Interest.** Shared ownership customers must have a legally enforceable ownership interest or legally enforceable rights and obligations in the eligible facility under which the customers have joint responsibility for the costs of the shared ownership facility and have the rights to the benefits of the output of the shared ownership facility in proportion to the cost responsibilities.~~

2. ~~**Contact Person.** Shared ownership customers must designate a single contact person to be responsible for all communications with the transmission and distribution utility regarding the shared ownership net energy billing arrangement. The contact person shall promptly inform the transmission and distribution utility of any material changes to the joint ownership interests or arrangements of the shared ownership customers, including any changes in the meters or accounts subject to net energy billing.~~

3. ~~**Competitive Electricity Provider.** A participant in a shared ownership net energy billing arrangement pursuant to this section shall not be considered a competitive electricity provider under Title 35-A, chapter 32.~~
4. ~~**Application.** Shared ownership customers must submit to the transmission and distribution utility an application for a net energy billing arrangement that contains the information specified in this subsection and other information that the transmission and distribution may reasonably require.~~
 - a. ~~**Customer identities.** A list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers and account numbers of each of the shared ownership customers.~~
 - b. ~~**Ownership interest.** Documentation that the shared ownership customers have a valid ownership interest in the shared ownership facility as required by this section, including the proportional ownership of each shared ownership customer.~~
 - c. ~~**Contact person.** The name, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the shared ownership customers' contact person.~~
 - d. ~~**Accounts.** A designation of the accounts or meters that will be subject to the shared ownership net energy billing arrangement.~~
 - e. ~~**Facility.** A description of the shared ownership facility, including the facility's location, capacity, and fuel type or generating technology.~~
5. ~~**Qualification Dispute.** A transmission and distribution utility may dispute the customers' eligibility for shared ownership net energy billing arrangement under this section by filing a Notice of Dispute with the Commission. The transmission and distribution utility must file a Notice of Dispute with 21 days of the submission of an application for a shared ownership net energy billing arrangement.~~
6. ~~**Consumer-owned Utility Exemption.** Consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities are not required to provide shared ownership net energy billing arrangements pursuant to this section. Consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities may elect to provide shared ownership net energy billing arrangements in accordance with this section.~~

§ 4 INDIVIDUAL, LEASE, SHARED OWNERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS

- A. Individual Net Energy Billing Customer.** An individual customer may participate in net energy billing and is not subject to the requirements of this section if the eligible facility is not (i) leased, (ii) a shared ownership facility or (iii) a community NEB project.
- B. Net Energy Billing Lease Customer.** An individual customer of a transmission and distribution utility that is a party to an NEB lease applicable to an eligible facility may

participate in net energy billing if the NEB lease arrangement conforms with this subsection.

1. **Lessor Disclosure.** All NEB lessors shall provide a written disclosure to eligible customers regarding their rights and obligations under this Chapter prior to the NEB lessee entering into the NEB lease. The Commission or the Director of Electric and Natural Gas Industries shall by order specify the language that NEB lessors must use in the disclosure statement. An NEB lessor may request approval to use alternative language. Approval of alternative language pursuant to this provision is delegated to the Director of Electric and Natural Gas Industries.
2. **NEB Lease Term.** An NEB lease may not exceed twenty years. At the end of the lease period, the ownership of the eligible facility must be transferred to the NEB lessee.
3. **NEB Lease Submission.** An NEB lessor must file all NEB leases with the Commission.
4. **Consumer Protection.** An NEB lessor shall not engage in any unfair or deceptive act or practice that creates a likelihood of confusion or misunderstanding in connection with the NEB lease and must comply with the provisions of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act, Title 5, chapter 10 and related consumer protection statutes. Any finding by an entity of competent jurisdiction that an NEB lessor violated either the Maine or Federal Unfair Trade Practices Act is deemed to be a violation of this Chapter. The Commission may impose an administrative penalty pursuant to Title 35-A, section 1508-A(C) for violations of this provision or impose other applicable sanctions and may issue a cease and desist order.

C. **Shared Ownership Net Energy Billing.** Shared ownership customers may participate in net energy billing if the shared ownership net energy billing arrangement conforms with this subsection.

1. **Ownership Interest.** Shared ownership customers must have a shared ownership interest in the eligible facility under which the customers have joint responsibility for the costs of the shared ownership facility and have rights to the output of the shared ownership facility in proportion to their cost responsibilities.
2. **Contact Person.** Shared ownership customers must designate a single contact person to be responsible for all communications with the transmission and distribution utility regarding the shared ownership net energy billing arrangement. The contact person shall promptly inform the transmission and distribution utility of any material changes to the joint ownership interests or arrangements of the shared ownership customers, including any changes in the meters or accounts subject to net energy billing.
3. **Application.** Shared ownership customers must submit to the transmission and distribution utility an application for a net energy billing arrangement that

contains the information specified in this subsection and other information that the transmission and distribution may reasonably require.

- a. Customer identities. A list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers and account numbers of each of the shared ownership customers.
- b. Ownership interest. Documentation that the shared ownership customers have a valid ownership interest in the shared ownership facility as required by this section, including the proportional ownership of each shared ownership customer.
- c. Contact person. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the shared ownership customers' contact person.
- d. Accounts. A designation of the accounts or meters that will be subject to the shared ownership net energy billing arrangement.
- e. Facility. A description of the shared ownership facility, including the facility's location, capacity, fuel type, and generating technology.

4. Allocation of Nettable Energy. The transmission and distribution utility shall allocate the nettable energy of the shared ownership facility to customers in proportion to each customer's ownership interest of the shared ownership customers in the eligible facility. The transmission and distribution utility may place shared ownership customers of a given facility on the same billing cycle.

D. Community Net Energy Billing. Community NEB subscribers to a community net energy bill project may participate in net energy billing if the community net energy billing project and the related arrangements conform with this subsection.

- 1. Registration.** A community NEB project sponsor must register with the Commission and provide the following information on each community NEB project.
 - a. Contact information. The name, mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of the community NEB project sponsor
 - b. Customer identities. A list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers and account numbers of each community NEB subscriber.
 - c. Accounts. A designation of the accounts or meters of each community NEB subscriber that will be part of the Community NEB project.
 - d. Other. Any other information that the Commission determines is necessary or useful to fulfill the purposes of this Chapter.
- 2. Application.** A community NEB project sponsor must submit to the transmission and distribution utility an application for a community NEB project that contains the information specified above for shared ownership arrangements

in §4.B.3 and other information that the transmission and distribution may reasonably require.

- 3. Community NEB Project Sponsor Disclosure.** All community NEB project sponsors shall provide a written disclosure to community NEB subscribers regarding their rights and obligations under this Chapter prior to the effective date of any community NEB subscription. The Commission or the Director of Electric and Natural Gas Industries shall by order specify the language that NEB project sponsors must use in the disclosure statement. A community NEB project sponsor may request approval to use alternative language. Approval of alternative language pursuant to this provision is delegated to the Director of Electric and Natural Gas Industries.
- 4. Consumer Protection.** A community NEB project sponsor shall not engage in any unfair or deceptive act or practice that creates a likelihood of confusion or misunderstanding in connection with community NEB subscriptions and must comply with the provisions of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act, Title 5, chapter 10 and related consumer protection statutes. Any finding by an entity of competent jurisdiction that a community project sponsor violated either the Maine or Federal Unfair Trade Practices Act is deemed to be a violation of this Chapter. The Commission may impose an administrative penalty pursuant to Title 35-A, section 1508-A(C) for violations of this provision or impose other applicable sanctions and may issue a cease and desist order.

§ 5 OTHER PROVISIONS

- A. GIS Certificates.** Eligible customers are not required to transfer GIS certificates to participate in net energy billing.
- B. Eligibility Dispute.** A transmission and distribution utility may dispute a customer's eligibility for net energy billing by filing a Notice of Dispute with the Commission. The transmission and distribution utility must file a Notice of Dispute within twenty-one business days of the submission of an application by a customer for net energy billing. Customers may be required to provide information that the Commission determines is useful or necessary in reviewing eligibility for net energy billing.
- C. Consumer-owned Utility Exemption.** Consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities are not required to provide shared ownership or community net energy billing arrangements. Consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities may elect to provide shared ownership net energy billing or community net energy billing in accordance with this section.
- D. Commission Review.** A transmission and distribution utility shall notify the Commission if the cumulative capacity of generating facilities subject to the provisions of this Chapter reaches four percent of its peak demand. Upon notification, the Commission will review this Chapter to determine whether net energy billing pursuant to this Chapter should continue or be modified.

~~5. — **Shared Ownership Billing.** The transmission and distribution utility shall allocate the generation output during the billing period and any kilowatt-hour credits from prior billing periods based on the ownership interest of the shared ownership customers in the eligible facility. The transmission and distribution utility may place shared ownership customers on the same billing cycle.~~

~~6. — **Limit on Accounts.** Customers or shared ownership customers may designate no more than 10 accounts or meters for net energy billing.~~

E. Competitive Electricity Provider Billing. ~~**Generation Provider.** A customer or the shared ownership customers that elect net energy billing may obtain generation service from any A competitive electricity provider that bills for its supply service to a net energy billing customer, rather than having the T&D utility bill the customer on its behalf, may bill agrees to provide service on a net energy basis pursuant to this Chapter but is not required to do so.~~ If the customer or the shared ownership customers obtains service from the standard offer, the standard offer provider shall provide service on a net energy basis.

FG. Additional Meters. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a utility from installing additional meters to record purchases and sales separately, provided, however, that no customer or the shared ownership customers that elect to be billed on a net energy basis shall be charged for the cost of the additional meters or other necessary equipment.

GH. Interconnection Requirements. A customer or shared ownership customers that elects net energy billing must comply with all interconnection, safety and reliability requirements of the transmission and distribution utility applicable to the eligible facility.

HI. Standard Contract and Application. Each transmission and distribution utility shall develop a standard contract and application forms for annualized customer net billing consistent with the provisions of this Chapter. ~~The standard contract shall allow customers to choose a contract with no specified term or with a term length of up to ten years. In the event a customer chooses a contract term length, the contract shall include a provision that obligates the parties to negotiate in good faith to revise the contract terms if there is a change in statute or rule that materially alters any right or obligation of a contracting party.~~

~~**J. — **Commission Review.** A transmission and distribution utility shall notify the Commission if the cumulative capacity of generating facilities subject to the provisions of this Chapter reaches 1.0 percent of its peak demand. Upon notification, the Commission will review this Chapter to determine whether net energy billing pursuant to this Chapter should continue or be modified.**~~

I. Annual Report. On March 1 of each year, transmission and distribution utilities shall file with the Commission an annual net energy billing report for the previous calendar year. The annual net energy billing report shall include: (1) a list of all net energy billing arrangements; (2) the capacity, energy output and fuel type or generating technology of each eligible facility; (3) the number of accounts or meters associated with each shared ownership and community net energy billing arrangement; (4) and an estimate of the revenue loss associated with the net energy billing arrangements.

§ 46 WAIVER OR EXEMPTION

Upon the request of any person subject to this Chapter or upon its own motion, the Commission may, for good cause, waive any requirement of this Chapter that is not required by statute. The waiver may not be inconsistent with the purposes of this Chapter or Title 35-A. The Commission, the Director of ~~Technical Analysis~~[the Electric and Gas Utility Industries](#), or the Presiding Officer assigned to a proceeding related to this Chapter may grant the waiver.

BASIS STATEMENT: The factual and policy basis for this rule is set forth in the Commission's Order Adopting Final Rule, Docket No. 2016-00222, issued on _____; the factual and policy basis for this rule is set forth in the Commission's Order Adopting Final Rule, Docket No. 2011-398, issued on 1/11/12 ; the factual and policy basis for this rule is set forth in the Commission's Order Adopting Final Rule, Docket No. 2008-410, issued on June 9, 2009; Commission's Statement of Factual and Policy Basis and Order Adopting Rule, Commission Docket No. 98-621, issued on December 10, 1998; and Order Adopting Provisional Rule and Statement of Factual and Policy Basis, Commission Docket No. 2008-410, issued on January 8, 2009. Copies of this Statement and Order have been filed with this rule at the Office of the Secretary of State. Copies may also be obtained from the Administrative Director, Public Utilities Commission, 101 Second Street, Hallowell Maine 04347, 18 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0018.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 35-A M.R.S.A. §§ 104, 111, 1301, 3203(9) and 3210.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule was approved as to form and legality by the Attorney General on _____. It was filed with the Secretary of State on _____ and will be effective on _____.