

**Agenda  
Item  
VII.B.**

**State of Oregon**

**Board memo**

**Building Codes Division**

**July 22, 2010**

**To:** Electrical and Elevator Board

**From:** Chris Huntington, Manager, Policy and Technical Services

**Subject:** Renewable Energy Electrical Permit Fees

**Action requested:**

Review proposed rule for public hearing and subsequent adoption if there are no substantial changes.

**Background:**

To accompany the statewide solar installation code, the division has been working to make solar permitting and plan review consistent across the jurisdictions. The current rule addresses all renewable energy electrical permits and contains a phased fee. Under the current rule, fees are established for systems smaller than 5 KVA, for systems 5.01 to 15KVA, and for systems 15.01 to 25 KVA. It does not address systems larger than 25KVA. As larger systems are being installed across the state, jurisdictions and installers have asked for clarification on how electrical permits should be valued for renewable energy systems larger than 25KVA.

The division worked with industry stakeholders to amend the existing rule to address larger renewable systems. The division, recognizing the differences in the size and structure of wind and solar systems has separated the methodologies for solar and wind systems. Based on feedback we received from stakeholders the amendment the division is proposing maintains the current status quo for wind systems. Currently, the majority of wind systems are being permitted under OAR 918-309-0040. Under that rule, system fees are calculated by feeder or service.

For solar installations, the rule developed in connection with stakeholder groups clarifies the fee structure for solar systems larger than 25KVA. The rule specifies a fee methodology for systems up to 100KVA. Under the rule, the permit fees are capped at 100KVA. The fee includes two inspections and any additional inspections that are necessary billed at an hourly rate.

**Options:**

- Approve the proposed rule for public hearing and subsequent adoption if no substantial changes are made as a result of the hearing.

- Amend and approve the proposed rule for public hearing and subsequent adoption if no substantial changes are made as a result of the hearing.
- Disapprove proposed rule.

**Recommendation:**

Approve the proposed rule for public hearing and subsequent adoption if no substantial changes are made as a result of the hearing.

**Board Draft**  
**Solar Electrical Permit Fee**  
**7-22-2010**

**918-309-0070**

**Miscellaneous**

Special fees are established for the following items in lieu of fees set under OAR 918-309-0060.

(1) Permit for each domestic water or sewage pump, irrigation pump or circle and its associated controls, excluding service fee, \$63;

(a) Single Circuit. If a well pump or sewage pump and its associated controls are serviced from the house main service, and the pump is installed and ready for inspection, no additional fee is charged. If the pump is installed by another contractor or later, an additional pump fee and a new permit is necessary under this part;

(b) Feeder. If the well has a subpanel, there is a fee for the feeder from the main service to the subpanel and a fee for branch circuits. If the pump is installed later, or by another contractor, a new permit and pump fee is required;

(c) Separate Service. If the well has separate service the fee is based on the service (amps) and the number of branch circuits. If the pump is installed later, or by a different contractor, a new permit and pump fee is required.

(2) Permit for the installation of each electrical sign or outline lighting system supplied by a single branch circuit, \$63.

(3) Each limited energy circuit panel, one or more air-conditioning or heater thermostats installed at a job site, multiple circuit terminal board or installation or extension of limited energy circuits, \$63.

(4) The permit fees in this section **rule** are for up to two inspections and are charged in addition to other fees for electrical service.

(5) Note the exception under OAR 918-309-0030(3)(a)(A) dealing with residential limited energy.

(6) Installation of signal circuits in buildings over three floors. Each floor in excess of three shall be considered a separate panel for the purpose of calculating fees.

(7) Fees for Inspections in Excess of Those Allowed Under OAR 918-309-0030 through 918-309-0060. Charge for each additional inspection to be paid in advance unless requested by a bonded electrical contractor using the bulk label system, \$55.

(8) Fees for Other Inspections not Covered by This Rule. All inspections not provided in this rule shall be charged at \$86 per hour including travel and office time with a minimum charge of one hour.

(9) Fees for Bulk Labels:

(a) Bulk labels sold only to electrical contractors, \$25 per label;

(b) Contractors working under a bulk label system are billed for any difference in the cost of the bulk label and the cost of the permit fees required in this rule.

(10) The fee for swimming pools shall be permitted as provided in OAR 918-309-0040 and 918-309-0060. The inspection of the grounding of the pool shall be included in the permit for the pool and counted as one of the number of allowed inspections under the permit.

(11) Permit fees for renewable electrical energy systems. For renewable electrical energy permit applications, see OAR 918-309-0410. For repairs and maintenance of renewable electrical energy systems, see OAR 918-309-0220(5).

(a) (A) 5 KVA or less: \$79;

~~(b)~~ (B) 5.01 KVA to 15 KVA: \$94;

~~(c)~~ (C) 15.01 KVA to 25 KVA: \$156.

(b) For wind generation systems

(A) 25.01 KVA to 50 KVA: \$204;

(B) 50.10 KVA to 100 KVA: \$469;

(C) For systems that exceed 100 KVA the permit fee shall be calculated in accordance with OAR 918-309-0040.

(c) (A) For solar generation systems each additional KVA over 25 will be charged an additional \$6.25 per KVA. The permit charge will not increase beyond the calculation for 100 KVA.

(B) Additional inspections beyond those in section (4) of this rule will be billed at an hourly rate.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 479.870

Stats. Implemented: ORS 479.870

Hist.: BCA 16-1990, f. 6-27-90, cert. ef. 7-1-90; BCA 6-1991(Temp), f. 3-21-91, cert. ef. 7-1-91; BCA 10-1991, f. 4-26-91, cert. ef. 7-1-91; BCD 19-1996, f. 9-17-96, cert. ef. 10-1-96; Renumbered from 918-260-0260; BCD 9-1998(Temp), f. 6-2-98, cert. ef. 7-1-98 thru 12-27-98; BCD 18-1998, f. 9-30-98, cert. ef. 10-1-98; BCD 19-1999, f. 12-30-99, cert. ef. 1-1-00; BCD 23-2000, f. 9-29-00, cert. ef. 10-1-00; BCD 9-2001(Temp), f. 8-15-01, cert. ef. 9-4-01 thru 3-3-02; BCD 10-2001, f. 9-28-01, cert. ef. 10-1-01; BCD 23-2001(Temp), f. 12-28-01, cert. ef. 1-1-02 thru 6-29-02; BCD 4-2002, f. 3-8-02, cert. ef. 4-1-02; BCD 9-2002, f. 3-29-02, cert. ef. 4-1-02

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