I. Eligibility

Q. Is NEM Aggregation available?
A. Yes, NEM Aggregation is available to customers as of February 20, 2014.

Q. Is the tariff available online?
A. NEM Aggregation, or NEMA, is a sub-schedule to the NEM tariff under Special Condition 8. It is available in PG&E’s Tariff Library: http://www.pge.com/tariffs/tm2/pdf/ELEC_SCHDS_NEM.pdf

Q. Do I qualify for NEMA?
A. If you have multiple electric accounts on the same property as the renewable generator or on property contiguous or adjacent to that property, you can install a generator up to 1 MW to serve the aggregated load of all accounts, so long as all of the properties are solely owned, leased, or rented by you. You must also be the customer-of-record on PG&E’s bill for all accounts. NEMA eligibility will be verified during the interconnection process described below.

If you are on Direct Access or Community Choice Aggregation service, there are additional requirements described below.

Q. How does NEMA work?
A. The renewable generators can be sized to the total annual load of all eligible accounts that you want to aggregate. Throughout the 12-month true-up period, any exported generation will be allocated among all of the eligible, participating accounts monthly. The monthly allocation is based on the cumulative load of the accounts and cumulative generation from the renewable generator.

Q. What does “contiguous or adjacent” mean?
A. Under the terms of NEMA, adjacent or contiguous refers to a property touching the property with the renewable generator, or otherwise adjacent or continuous property, in an unbroken chain, as long as all connected properties are solely owned, leased, or rented by the same customer. Property that is divided by a street, highway, or public thoroughfare is considered contiguous if otherwise contiguous.
and under the same ownership or control. This will be verified during the interconnection application process. You may be required to provide parcel maps to establish your eligibility for NEMA.

**Q. What accounts are eligible for load aggregation?**

**A.** The accounts must be located on same property as the renewable generator, or on property adjacent or contiguous to the property where the generator is located. All properties must be under your sole ownership or control, and the accounts must be listed under your name as a customer-of-record on all PG&E bills. In the application process, you will specify the eligible accounts that you want included in the load aggregation.

**Q. What types of renewable generators qualify?**

**A.** A renewable generator that generates electricity using solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, biomass, wind, geothermal, fuel cells using renewable fuels, digester gas, municipal solid waste conversion, landfill gas, ocean wave, ocean thermal, tidal current, or small qualifying hydroelectric generation is eligible. If storage is being considered as part of a NEMA Arrangement, contact PG&E.

**Q. Do leased or rented properties qualify?**

**A.** Yes, as long as all properties with eligible accounts meet the contiguous or adjacent requirement and are leased or rented by the same customer who owns, leases or rents the property where the renewable generator is located. You must be the customer-of-record on all PG&E bills for accounts included in the load aggregation. PG&E may request a copy of your rental or lease agreement if that is the basis for the property's eligibility for NEMA.

**Q. Do condominium complexes qualify?**

**A.** Condominium properties often have multiple owners and multiple PG&E customers-of-record and therefore may not meet the requirements of this tariff. The condominium will be held to the same qualification rules, and PG&E will review such applications on a case-by-case basis.

**Q. As a Direct Access customer do I qualify?**

**A.** You may qualify for NEMA only if the NEM tariff of your Electric Service Provider (ESP) permits load aggregation. Please check with your ESP. Note that all accounts in the Arrangement must normally take service either only from PG&E, a single ESP, or a single Community Choice Aggregator (CCA). A mixture of electric agreements served by PG&E, ESPs and CCA’s may be permitted as long as PG&E is the billing agent for all of the electric accounts and can recover the NEMA incremental billing costs from your ESP and/or CCA.

**Q. As a Community Choice Aggregation customer do I qualify?**

**A.** You may qualify for NEMA, but you need to contact your Community Choice Aggregator to find out about the program they offer. Note that if the different accounts in the Arrangement are with different energy suppliers, then PG&E can recover the NEMA incremental billing costs from your ESP and/or CCA.

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**II. Definitions**

**Q. What is a Generating Account?**

**A.** A Generating Account is the account that is connected to the renewable generator. It may or may not have load other than that of the generator. There can be only one Generating Account in the NEMA Arrangement, but multiple renewable technologies can be connected behind it.
Q. What is an Aggregated Account?

An Aggregated Account is an eligible load account that you want to include in the NEMA Arrangement. Aggregated Accounts maybe of a different rate class (residential or agricultural) and/or on a different rate schedule (E1 or AG4) as long as the rate schedule is otherwise applicable to that particular Aggregated Account.

Q. What is an Arrangement?

A. An Arrangement includes all eligible Aggregated Accounts that would benefit from the renewable generation and the Generating Account serving the renewable generator. All of the accounts in the Arrangement are billed together under NEMA.

III. Interconnection

Q. Is there any limit (cap) to the participation in NEMA?

A. The same overall cap for NEM applies to NEMA renewable generators since NEMA is a sub-schedule to NEM. Once this cap has been reached, the referenced tariffs will be closed to new customers.

Q. What is the renewable generator size cap?

A. The renewable generator must have a total generating capacity of not more than 1 MW, and it must be sized so that the annual generation output (kWh) is not greater than the aggregated load of all accounts in the Arrangement over the course of a year.

Q. What are the interconnection requirements?

A. The NEMA interconnection is governed by CPUC rules, and the renewable generator must be approved in accordance with all applicable guidelines of Electric Rule 21 and the NEM tariff. In addition to the interconnection application and agreement, you will have to submit the “NEM LOAD AGGREGATION APPENDIX” (form 79-1153) and parcel maps. If you are working with a contractor, they can start the application process by submitting your interconnection paperwork.

Q. Is the NEMA interconnection application available online?

A. Yes. The “NEM LOAD AGGREGATION APPENDIX”, which must be submitted as part of the interconnection application, is available here.

Q. How do I apply for NEMA?

A. Standard NEM (< 30 kW) – Please submit the completed “NEM LOAD AGGREGATION APPENDIX” and parcel maps along with the interconnection package to gen@pge.com.

Expanded NEM (30 kW – 1 MW) – Please submit the completed “NEM LOAD AGGREGATION APPENDIX” and parcel maps along with the interconnection package via the online portal.

Q. Is site assessment required before installation?

A. Site assessment is not normally required for typical NEM installations, but it may be prudent for you to apply early in the process, prior to construction, to confirm your eligibility for NEMA.
Q. What type of engineering studies are required?

A. NEMA generators require engineering studies to determine the impacts on PG&E’s electric distribution system. Per Electric Rule 21, fast track review is an evaluation that allows for rapid review of the interconnection of generators that do not require a detailed study. Fast track review consists of an initial review and, if required, a supplemental review. If the NEMA generator passes the initial review, Screens A through M in Section G.1. of Electric Rule 21, it will be allowed to interconnect without supplemental review. PG&E will complete the initial review within fifteen (15) Business Days following validation of a NEMA interconnection request.

If supplemental review is required, it will consist of the review of Screens N through P in Section G.2 of Electric Rule 21. If the NEMA generator passes the supplemental review, it will be allowed to interconnect without additional studies. PG&E will complete the supplemental review within twenty (20) Business Days. If the supplemental review reveals that a detailed study will be required, you will be notified promptly.

Q. What type of metering is required?

A. For the Generating Account, the meter must be capable of separately measuring the excess generation (kWh) export to the smallest time interval used for the billing of the Aggregated Accounts. For the Aggregated Accounts, the load meter must be consistent with the applicable rate schedule for that account.

Q. Are there any metering costs?

A. If the existing meter on the Generating Account meets the requirements above, the only metering charges are the ones provided for in the applicable rate schedule. If a new meter is required, you will be responsible for the installation costs for the new meter. There are also metering charges under the applicable rate schedule for the Aggregated Accounts.

Q. Who pays for distribution system upgrades?

A. PG&E pays for distribution system upgrades required to interconnect a NEMA generator unless you are the only beneficiary of a required interconnection facility, e.g., you are responsible to pay for an upgrade of a dedicated transformer if the transformer serves only your property and account/s. You will not pay if that transformer serves other customers.

Q. Can I add an additional electrical service for the Generating Account?

A. You can request an additional electrical service for a Generating Account with no load instead of upgrading the existing service panel. The additional service must not have load other than that of the renewable generator. If the NEMA generator is later removed, the additional service may not be converted to a load account. You are responsible for all costs for the new service.

IV. Billing

Q. How does the billing work?

A. Every month, the excess generation (kWh) exported to the grid is allocated between all of the Aggregated Accounts, including the Generating Account if it has load. The allocation is based on the cumulative load of the accounts and cumulative generation from the renewable generator, recalculated monthly throughout the true-up period. After this allocation, each account is treated like a NEM account until true-up. NEMA customers must pay monthly for energy consumed.

For the annual true-up, the Generating Account and Aggregated Accounts must have the same billing cycle and Relevant Period, which is based on the interconnection date or Anniversary date thereafter.
Q. Are there any billing costs?
A. The Legislature directed that NEMA customers pay for billing services. You will be responsible for the following billing fees, which represent incremental NEMA billing cost:

- **Initial set-up fee** - $25 for each Aggregated Account and Generating Account, capped at $500 per Arrangement
- **Monthly fees** - $5 for each Aggregated Account and Generating Account

The fees are subject to further review and change. There might be additional fees if the NEMA Arrangement includes DA and/or CCA electric accounts.

Q. Am I eligible for AB920 Net Surplus Compensation?
A. The Legislature determined that NEMA customers are permanently ineligible for Net Surplus Compensation.

Q. Who owns the Renewable Energy Credits?
A. Generally, the renewable energy credits are retained by the owner of the renewable generator. Please check with your installer.

Q. Do I pay standby charges?
A. No, as a NEMA customer, you are exempt from standby charges.

Q. Do I pay non-bypassable charges?
A. No, as a NEMA customer, you are exempt from non-bypassable charges (NBCs). If you are a qualified DA or CCA customer as described above, you will pay NBCs on the net-usage.

V. Modifications

Q. As an existing NEM customer, can I transition to NEMA?
A. Existing NEM customers with an approved generator may transition to NEMA provided that all eligibility requirements are met.

Q. What is the process to transition to NEMA?
A. You have to complete the **NEM LOAD AGGREGATION APPENDIX** (form 79-1153) and submit it along with parcel maps to establish your eligibility for NEMA. Upon review and approval, your NEM account will true-up and the new NEMA billing will commence.

For Standard NEM (< 30 kW): Please email gen@pge.com

For Expanded NEM (30 kW – 1 MW): Please email Rule21@pge.com

Q. Can I increase the generator size and transition to NEMA?
A. If you decide to increase the size or make any other material changes to an approved generator, you must submit a new interconnection application along with the **NEM LOAD AGGREGATION APPENDIX** (form 79-1153) to initiate the required interconnection approval and new NEMA billing setup. A re-inspection may be required if the generator has been installed for over 3 years or has not been inspected in the past 3 years (see form 79-1125).
Q. Can I add or remove an Aggregated Account?

A. There are no restrictions to making changes in the NEMA Arrangement, but you will bear the cost for the initial billing set-up every time a change is requested. You have to submit a revised NEM LOAD AGGREGATION APPENDIX to change any Aggregated Account in the Arrangement.

Q. What happens if an Aggregated Account closes?

A. You have to submit a revised NEM LOAD AGGREGATION APPENDIX to exclude the closed Aggregated Account from the Arrangement.

Q. What happens if I sell or no longer rent or lease the properties?

A. This will end the NEMA Arrangement and your NEMA account will true up. The eligibility of the new customer must be established with a new interconnection application.

VI. Other Tariffs and Programs

Q. How is NEMA different from regular NEM?

A. Under NEM, a renewable generator can only serve the load on one account. Under NEMA, a single customer with multiple accounts on the same property, or on property adjacent or contiguous to it, can meet their energy needs with a renewable generator sized to the aggregate load of all eligible accounts.

Q. How is NEMA different from Virtual Net Energy Metering (VNEM)?

A. VNEM has some similar features but it can cover multiple customers located at a single service delivery point (usually all in the same building). In contrast, NEMA is designed for a single customer with multiple accounts that may be located on several contiguous and adjacent properties under their ownership or control. You can review the VNEM tariff here.

Q. Can I receive an incentive from a statewide program?

A. The NEM tariff does not govern the disbursement of incentives. Please refer to the specific incentive program Handbook for information on eligibility requirements and available funding.

Q. Can I participate in a Demand Response program?

A. NEMA customers are eligible for the same Demand Response (DR) programs as NEM customers. DR program elements that are affected by the load (e.g., program eligibility and payments) will exclude from consideration any impacts of the allocated generation. Please refer to the specific DR program for additional information.

VII. Legislative Background

Q. What is the legislative background to NEMA?

A. On September 27, 2012, the Governor signed SB 594 (Wolk), a statute designed to allow a single customer with multiple meters on the same property, or on the customer’s adjacent or contiguous properties, to meet their energy needs with a renewable generator sized to the aggregate load of all eligible meters up to 1 MW under Net Energy Metering (NEM).
On September 19, 2013, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted Resolution E-4610 stating that aggregation would not increase the cost shift already embedded in NEM and provided direction to PG&E to modify its NEM tariff to accommodate load aggregation.

On October 21, 2013, PG&E filed an Advice Letter seeking CPUC approval for the required modifications to the NEM tariff. On January 16, 2014, PG&E filed a supplemental Advice Letter addressing issues raised by protesting parties.

On February 20, 2014, the CPUC approved the revised NEM tariff, which established a new NEM sub-schedule, called NEM Aggregation or NEMA. PG&E is excited to provide this new offering to customers interested in renewable generation.