

## Inspection Fees and Procedures

**EF-1)** The inspection fee schedule in Minnesota Statutes 326B.37 does not contain any specific inspection fees that correlate with the typical solar PV system. Has the department established electrical inspection fees that directly correlate with solar PV systems?

**Answer:** Yes. When the inspection fee schedule is applied to a project and the calculated fee results in a total fee that is not reasonable (i.e. excessive), or the inspection fee schedule does not correlate with the electrical work associated with the project, Minnesota Statute 326B.37, Subdivision 12 authorizes the department to negotiate inspection fees that result in a total fee that is reasonable and more appropriately offsets the cost of providing the inspection service.

**EF-2)** What does the department's interim solar PV system inspection fee schedule look like?

**Answer:** The following inspection fees will be applicable to solar PV systems and installations:

(a) The inspection fee for the installation of solar PV systems, is

- (1) 0 watts to and including 5,000 watts, \$60; or
- (2) 5,001 watts to and including 10,000 watts, \$100 or
- (3) 10,001 watts to and including 20,000 watts, \$150 or
- (4) 20,001 watts to and including 30,000 watts, \$200 or
- (5) 30,001 watts to and including 40,000 watts, \$250 or
- (6) 40,001 watts to and including 1,000,000 watts, \$250, and \$25 for each additional 10,000 watts over 40,000 watts or
- (7) 1,000,000 watts to 5,000,000 watts, \$2,650, and \$15 for each additional 10,000 watts over 1,000,000 watts or
- (8) 5,000,000 watts and larger, \$8,650, and \$10 for each additional 10,000 watts over 5,000,000 watts.

(b) For the purpose of paragraph (a), the watt rating is the total estimated alternating current (ac) energy output of the solar system. The total dc energy output is not used.

(c) The solar PV inspection fees shall include inverters, modules, panels, combiners, converters, charge controllers, disconnecting means and electrical conductors between the inverter and the ac panelboard for stand-alone solar PV systems, or the conductors between the inverter and the service equipment or other power production, distribution and utilization system, such as a utility system and its connected loads, that is external to and not controlled by the solar PV power system.

(d) In addition to the inspection fees in (a), additional inspection fees may be applicable on large-scale projects for the inspection of additional electrical infrastructure between the inverter output circuit and the electrical production and distribution network. The inspection fees shall be calculated according to Minnesota Statutes 326B.37, subdivisions 2, 3, 4, and 6, paragraphs (d), (f), (j), and (k).