



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2015 Assembly Bill 560**

**Assembly Substitute  
Amendment 1**

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*Contact:* Zach Ramirez, Staff Attorney (267-9485)

### **BACKGROUND**

Current law defines a “distributed generation facility” to mean a facility for the generation of electricity with a capacity of no more than 15 megawatts that is located near the point where the electricity will be used or in a location that will support the functioning of the electric power distribution grid.

Current law requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to promulgate rules establishing engineering and safety standards for the connection of distributed generation facilities, which the PSC has codified in ch. PSC 119, Wis. Adm. Code. Among other requirements, PSC’s administrative rules authorize a public utility to require a person connecting a distributed generation facility with a capacity of no more than 15 megawatts to the distribution system to install a disconnect switch that meets certain design standards and is accessible to public utility personnel. The rules also require the person to install certain protection devices and circuit breakers, and to submit a site plan to the public utility showing the location of the distributed generation facility and the disconnect switch.

### **2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 560**

The bill broadens the definition of “distributed generation facility” by removing the requirement that the facility have a capacity of no more than 15 megawatts, and it defines “small distributed generation facility” to mean a facility with a capacity of no more than 15 megawatts.

Under the bill, PSC is required to promulgate rules establishing engineering and safety standards for the connection of small distributed generation facilities.

The bill prohibits a customer of a retail electric utility or a member of a retail electric cooperative from interconnecting a distributed generation facility to the electric distribution system unless:

- The customer or member installs a disconnection device for the facility in a conspicuous location that is accessible to the maintenance personnel of the utility or cooperative.
- The customer or member notifies the utility or cooperative of the location of the distributed generation facility and the disconnection device.

Under the bill, if a person has interconnected a distributed generation facility to the electric distribution system before the bill's effective date, the person must attach a permanent placard to the person's meter that identifies the location of the disconnection device for the distributed generation facility and must notify the utility or cooperative of the location of the distributed generation facility and the disconnection device, no later than the first day of the seventh month beginning after the bill's effective date.

### **ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1**

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 (the substitute amendment) to Assembly Bill 560 authorizes an electric public utility to require a customer connecting a distributed generation facility<sup>1</sup> to the distribution system to install a disconnect switch that meets certain design standards, is accessible to public utility personnel, and satisfies specified labeling requirements.

The substitute amendment prohibits a customer of an electric public utility from installing a distributed generation facility that is connected to the distribution system on or after the substitute amendment's effective date, unless the customer installs certain protection devices and circuit breakers that satisfy specified requirements.

Under the substitute amendment, if a customer has interconnected a distributed generation facility to the electric distribution system before the substitute amendment's effective date, the customer must attach a permanent placard to the customer's electric meter that identifies the location of the disconnection device for the distributed generation facility and must notify the public utility of the location of the distributed generation facility and the disconnection device, no later than the first day of the seventh month beginning after the substitute amendment's effective date.

### **BILL HISTORY**

Representative Kahl offered Assembly Amendment 1 on December 14, 2015. On December 15, 2015, the Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0.

Representative Kahl offered Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on January 15, 2016. On January 19, 2016, the Assembly adopted Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 and passed the bill, as amended, on a voice vote.

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<sup>1</sup> Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 retains the definition of "distributed generation facility" that is provided in current law.