Objective: To facilitate utility meter location (aka meter spots) for existing one and two family dwelling rooftop solar energy systems in a timely manner while ensuring the safety and reliability of the electric grid.

1. Issue Statement:

The deployment and utilization of rooftop solar energy systems on existing one and two family dwellings can include the requirement for a utility service order of a meter spot by the utility. Due to the volume of meter spots required, the PV industry is experiencing notable delays from some utilities simply due to the utility meter spot process.

2. Background:

Delays in the utility meter spot process may be a result of utility requirements. The following are examples of these requirements:

- Some utilities require the existing meter at the home be inspected in person by the utility to determine whether or not utility or customer upgrades are required prior to performing the PV installation.

- Relocation of the meter and customer’s main service panel may be required of existing nonconforming installations.

- Upgrade or change in conductors feeding service equipment from utility source due to damage, age or inability to support the main service panel.

- Utilities require meter to be compatible with net metering which requires the meter to not only measure energy consumed but also to measure energy delivered to the utility grid.

3. Current Status:

SEAC has identified effective recommendations that can be used to streamline utility interconnection procedures.
4. **Key considerations:**

The State of California continues to set far-reaching climate and energy goals. There are many state policies and laws promoting and encouraging the use of solar energy systems.

Many cities are vowing to use more renewable energy and to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Utilities, regulators, technology providers, and customers need to work together to build the greatest electricity system that delivers value and affordability to customers and society.

5. **Recommendation(s):**

Many of the solutions simply require better education, relationship building, and communication of expectations between all stakeholders.

The following are practices and processes to consider:

A. Meter Spots should only be required by the utility if the system requires a main service panel upgrade.

B. When a meter spot is required due to a main service panel upgrade, the process is resource intensive and can result in extensive delays.

The following recommendations can reduce the delay associated with meter spots:

1) Allow the contractor to request the meter spot.

2) Where the volume warrants, the utility should consider dedicated staff for handling solar meter spots.

3) Allow meter spot information to be sent directly to the contractor via email to speed the delivery of information regarding the meter spot.

4) Virtual inspections or photo review in lieu of in-person meter spots where certain parameters are met (such as Overhead feeders) reduces time to perform meter spots.

5) With regard to feeder wire sizes, if the utility does not have the existing feeder wire sizes on record, then they should allow the main service panel upgrade to proceed and come at a later date to inspect the wire size (this would obviously need to be immediately after the request is made, but should not delay the approval of the panel upgrade).

6. **Applicable to whom:**

The recommendations would apply to utilities, contractors and AHJs. The implementation of these recommendations would also benefit end customers.
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