



National Electric Code Scope

Robert Preus, Professional Engineer

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Developing Issue on National Electric Code Scope

During the last code revision cycle, it became clear that there were competing interpretations of the scope of the National Electric Code (NEC). It was too late in the process of the 2017 revision cycle to generate new language even if a consensus emerged. That left the issue for the next code cycle.

Scope of NEC Ambiguous

The scope of the NEC is defined in Section 90, part of which is item 5 of Section 90.2, (B).

- Section 90.2(B) not covered
 - 5: Installations under the exclusive control of an electric utility*
- Some jurisdictions interpret a utility as including independent power producers and others do not
- This issue is getting more attention as commercial-scale photovoltaic plants become more common
- In the 2017 code cycle, we added Section 691 for photovoltaic plants over 5 megawatts.

*NEC 2014

If Not NEC, Who?

What standards apply to utilities (they are not subject to the NEC)?

- A utility's infrastructure is built to National Electrical Safety Code standards
- Medium- and high-voltage equipment is not UL listed, but meets National Electrical Safety Code standards
- Design work is done and construction supervised and/or inspected by licensed professional engineers.

Why should the same equipment be under one standard if owned by a utility and another if it is owned by an independent power producer.

NEC 2020 Code Cycle Revision Timeline

Anyone can submit a request for revision to modify any part of the NEC. There is a deadline for receipt of these requests.

- Deadline for public input is September 7, 2017, for the 2020 code cycle
 - No new content from the public after this date
- Technical Committee meetings January 2018
 - All revision requests reviewed and acted upon with statement of justification.

NEC 2020 Code Cycle Revision Timeline (Continued)

- Draft of proposed revisions and panel actions and comments is posted July 7, 2018
- Public comment period closes August 30, 2018
- Second draft meeting to respond to public comments in October 2018
- Not officially final until accepted by National Fire Prevention Association at their annual meeting.

Wind Industry Input is Important

- Input from stakeholder groups has more weight
- American Wind Energy Association standards committee may form a subcommittee for developing a revision request
- www.Wind-NEC.com may be used to develop a wind energy group recommendation.

Robert Preus
robert.preus@nrel.gov

www.nrel.gov

