Building Codes Division

Working with Oregonians to ensure safe building construction while supporting a positive business climate.

Meeting Summary

July 2, 2008

Net Metering and Interconnection

The Building Codes Division (BCD), with the cooperation of the Oregon OSHA and the Oregon Public Utilities Commission (PUC), held a public meeting to receive input and recommendations relating to net metering and disconnection requirements.

Issues:

Some local utility districts have expressed concern about the safety of line crews in regard to the increasing use of distributed energy systems (i.e. solar panels) and net metering.

What is the balance between statewide consistency and standards for net metering and local and/or site specific disconnect requirements for solar installations?

Topics Discussed:

- Safety of solar inverters.
- The locations and cost of additional disconnects.
- Existing PUC rules in regard to net metering.
- Consumer- and municipality owned utilities .
- Safety concerns, including the added cost vs. the life-safety factor.
- The possibility of adding net metering and interconnection provisions into the building code for the electrical contractors' ease of use.
- Need for additional training on solar installations .

Outcomes:

As a result, the group agreed that training on net metering and interconnection would be beneficial to industry, allowing for a better understanding of the technology and requirements. The Building Codes Division will be forming a group to discuss the content of the training. If you would like to be a part of the training effort, please contact the individuals listed below.

Contact:

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact:

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