

PV INDUSTRY ALERT

Solar Support Team 1300 553 924 ■ 8.00am–5.00pm Mon-Fri ■ energysystems@ergon.com.au

This is the seventh alert to inform the solar PV industry about Ergon Energy's requirements for applying for and carrying out inverter energy system connections to the network.

Planning for 30 June

We are expecting a significant increase in the rate of IES applications prior to 30 June 2012, when the Federal Government's Solar Credits rebate is reduced.

Ideally, all applications for systems intended to be installed before that date should be lodged by **Monday 30 April** 2012. This is particularly the case if the inverter is of a size likely to require a technical assessment.

Ergon Energy conducts desk-top technical assessments of applications for inverters 5kW and larger on the main grid, 2kW and larger on our SWER network, and all inverters on our isolated networks. However, we reserve the right to assess any other application to maintain network standards.

We will be working hard to process applications received after 30 April, but application numbers rise significantly at this time of the year, creating the potential for delays.

To allow us to process applications for installation of even the smaller, unassessed inverter systems before the 30 June deadline, the latest recommended application lodgement date for smaller systems is **Monday 28 May** 2012.

Assessment delays

Due to the volume of solar PV applications and the growing complexity of requirements, we are experiencing some technical assessment delays.

We have attempted to phone all customers affected by these delays and we appreciate their patience. We are working hard to catch up and expect to be processing newly assessed applications within our usual four weeks by late March.

Solar Bonus Scheme advice

The Queensland Government's Solar Bonus Scheme (SBS) is administered by Ergon Energy in regional Queensland.

Any questions about the SBS should be directed to the Office of Clean Energy:

www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au

We encourage PV sales consultants to understand the rules of the SBS and communicate these to their customers.

We are aware that many consultants are selling system upgrades to customers which take their total system size over 5kW. We urge you to advise them this renders their system ineligible for the feed-in tariff.

Big systems, different process

If applying to Ergon Energy to connect a PV system with an inverter larger than 30kW, please be aware such applications are handled through our Major Customers group. More information can be found by visiting www.ergon.com.au and searching for '[Major connections](#)'.

Online the best way for Form A

Most contractors lodge a Form A (to request a meter change) online. We believe this negates the risk of these forms not being recorded correctly in our systems. This quick and easy system can be found by visiting www.ergon.com.au and searching for '[Form A](#)'.

Saving application forms

It was brought to our attention that some users of the electronic IES Application form were unable to save completed files.

This issue has been addressed and all users can now save the file onto their computer to complete later or for reference purposes. Please advise us if difficulties remain.

Receiving alerts

If you receive these alerts second-hand and would like to be included on our distribution list to receive these alerts directly, email

energysystems@ergon.com.au

with 'Please add me to PV Industry Alert list' in the Subject field.

REMINDER: Adding panels

The Application form includes a field to confirm the nature of any upgrade. Even if your customer is only intending to add panels to an existing system, Ergon Energy must receive those details. A new Agreement is not required if the inverter is not being changed.

Any feedback on alerts?

Are these alerts serving your needs? What would you like to see covered in them that isn't being? We'd really appreciate your feedback so we can improve the information we send you, and know what we're doing well. Please email us at:

energysystems@ergon.com.au

typing 'Feedback – PV Industry Alert' in the Subject field.