



energy

Department:
Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**FARM DWELLER HOUSES POLICY
GUIDELINES
FOR
INTEGRATED NATIONAL
ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME (INEP)**

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1. Background

In line with the energy White Paper and the Electricity Pricing Policy (EPP), cognizance is taken of the fact that many people in South Africa are living below the poverty line and have limited ability to pay for goods and services. This fact guides the application of subsidies to lower the barriers of entry and reduce the price to low usage customers.

Supply to residential customers must meet the customers' basic essential electricity needs. This should be done at the lowest possible cost using appropriate technologies, supply sizes, and customer service options.

The drive to make electricity accessible to all the people of South Africa includes the electrification of households occupied by farm dwellers on private farms. To show commitment to universal access for electrification, Government contributes considerably towards the cost of connection and these connections are reported as part of Government's electrification achievements. Either the farm owner or the local licensed entity initiates the electrification of the farm dweller houses with requests from the farm workers. In addition to electrification, government provides Free Basic Electricity (FBE) to indigent households. Free Basic electricity covers indigent households connected to grid and non-grid energy.

A farm dweller house is a permanent structure that is occupied by a person living on the farm, living alone or together with his/her family in either a rural or semi-urban area. The farm dwellers live on privately owned land, giving the farm owner complete and absolute rights to the governing and running of his/her land. Usually, the farm dweller does not own the occupied house or the stand.

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This policy must be read in conjunction with other policies.

2. Introduction

Farm dwellers form an integral part of our society. Supplying them with electricity will help to improve their living conditions. Studies, such as the socio-economic impact of electrification, have shown that once the households have been electrified, families spend considerably less money on alternate energy sources per month.

3. Objective

The objective of this document is to outline procedures regarding the electrification of farm dweller houses as part of the Integrated National Electrification Programme.

4. Scope of application

These policy guidelines are applicable to all licensed entities implementing the Integrated National Electrification Program (INEP) on behalf of the Department of Energy.

These policy guidelines can also be applied to other types of family units within the farm arrangement or otherwise.

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5. Access for electrification

The farm owner has rights to the running of his/her farm. Furthermore, farm dwellers live on privately owned land; this means that the farm owner cannot be forced to electrify the farm dweller houses in his/her farm. However, in the interest of the farm dwellers, the municipality must negotiate with the farm owner to reassure and convince him/her that electrification would be in the best interest of the farm dwellers and the farm.

N.B This means that permission, in writing, has to be granted by the farm owner for the electrification of farm dweller houses.

6. Options for the electrification of farm dweller houses

There are two types of supply, either the grid supply or the non-grid supply. For grid supply there are two methods of supply that the farm dweller can choose from. Due to the fact that the farmer owns the land, the choice of supply should be in consultation and approval of the farm owner. The two methods include the indirect supply method and direct supply method.

6.1. Grid supply

6.1.1 Indirect supply method

Indirect supply method refers to where the farm dweller is not the direct customer of the licensed entity but is supplied through the bulk meter of the farmer. The farmer extends an existing supply point, or takes a new supply point to supply electricity to the farm dweller houses.

With the indirect connections facilitated costs will be insignificant. In most cases the networks can accommodate the additional load at no additional

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cost due to the low consumption patterns of the farm dwellings. In addition, the farmer will carry the consumption costs.

The farm dwellers are at low levels of income and in most cases do not own the houses they live in. The responsibility for paying the licensed entity for the consumption rests with the direct customer (the farmer). However, the option of making farm dwellers pay for their usage or including / not including it as part of the wage package is for the farmer's discretion.

The Electricity Regulation Act of 2006 (Act No 4 of 2006) allows customer to redistribute electricity to its tenants or people residing in her or his premises. However, such customer may not make a profit from such redistribution of the electricity. However, the Act does allow redistribution of electricity through a license issued by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). In addition, the tariff that the farm dwellers are charged should not be more than what other electrification customers with the same supply size within the same area are paying.

6.1.2. Direct supply method

Direct supply method refers to where the farm dwellers are direct customers of the licensed entity. This means that the farm dweller houses are connected directly to the network.

Unless the farm dweller houses are in close proximity to one another & close to the main supply line, the cost of direct connection will be very high. The direct supply method should only be used as a last resort to facilitate the electrification of farm dweller houses. Furthermore, should this method be chosen, the normal processes for the electrification of households will apply.

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6.2. Non-grid supply

This type of supply allows for electrification of farm dweller houses where the farm does not have electricity at all and grid connections are not cost effective or feasible. The Solar Home System offers a technologically and economically viable alternative to provide basic electricity for essential services such as lighting and electronic media where grid connections cannot be done within acceptable cost norms.

The non-grid method will be subsidized at a maximum equal to the subsidy applicable in that particular year of supply.

7. The subsidy

To facilitate the process of electrification, Government provides subsidies. Currently, the subsidy for electrification of farm dwellings is linked to the subsidy provided for electrification in rural areas. Government will pay, through the licensed entity, an amount up to the maximum subsidy payable for the electrification of rural households or the actual cost incurred if it is lower than the applicable subsidy. The subsidy paid will not be more than the actual cost of connection. The subsidy is based on the cost of the lowest supply size stated in the suite` of supply options and a network built in accordance with relevant industry standards. This amount will be determined on an annual basis.

The subsidy will not be given for the electrification of holiday cottages, dairies, sheds, and water pumps.

In the case of non-grid supply, payment of the subsidy is subject to the farm

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owner giving a written & signed letter confirming the acceptance for taking responsibility for the maintenance of the systems. Government has a right and will inspect the system from time to time.

The farmer will decide on the service provider of choice for the installation of the system. There will be no service charge to be paid by farm dwellers that have been given solar home systems.

7.1. Application process for the subsidy

- The farm owner must complete all details of the electrification of farm dweller houses on the standard application form of the entity.
- The completed application form must be submitted to the local licensed entity.
- The licensed entity must notify the farmer in writing as to whether the application has been approved or rejected and Eskom will also notify the municipality.

7.2. Claiming the subsidy

Once the electrification of the farm dweller houses is complete, the farmer must claim the subsidy from the local licensed entity. In addition, to claim the subsidy, the farmer must submit a copy of the Certificate of Compliance to the local licensed entity and proof of details of costs incurred during the electrification.

Receipts must be submitted to the licensed entity with details of material bought by the farmer and the electrical work done by the contractor. These receipts must include costs including and excluding Value Added Tax (VAT).

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The payment of the subsidy claim for the electrified farm dweller houses will be done in the following financial year post completion of the project unless there are funds available in that current year. This is due to the fact that farm dweller house electrification is difficult to plan and budget for as electrification is done upon application or request, thus limiting funds available to pay the subsidy claims. This would then allow for the budgeting for farm dweller house electrification subsidy claims which is informed by the applications received in that current year.

A farm dweller house project will only be considered for upgrade if the existing point of supply cannot cater for the existing number of farm dweller houses. Furthermore, should the number of farm dweller houses increase in the farm, leading to the existing network not being able cater for the increased load, the farmer should consult the local licensed entity.

When the subsidy is claimed, the licensed entity must conduct an inspection to ensure that the network and infrastructure meets the applicable standards and the conditions of the subsidy. The conditions are as follows:

- All wiring must be done according to the SABS standards and a copy of the certificate of compliance must be issued.
- A supply of at least the lowest supply size stated in the suite of supply policy per farm dweller house, a ready board with three socket outlets and an energy saving light bulb must be installed and must be in working order.
- Receipts must have been submitted

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The subsidy will cover the following costs:

- The low voltage reticulation costs beyond the farmers point of supply,
- The service connection,
- The meter,
- Ready board
- If a farmer electrified the farm dweller houses without any assistance from government, the subsidy cannot be claimed in retrospect.
- The subsidy can only be claimed if an application is made and approved before the work/project commences.
- After the standards certificate of compliance has been issued and the subsidy to be paid has been determined, the license entity will process the claim.

The subsidy will not cover the following:

- Any internal wiring beyond the meter
- Electrical appliances.

8. Grid electrification

For the indirect or direct supply method to be applicable, the following conditions must prevail:

8.1. The indirect / direct supply method is applicable for any number of dweller houses on a farm that is used for bona fide farming;

8.2. The subsidies are only applicable in rural or semi-urban areas i.e.

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where bona fide farming activities are carried out and/or rural subsidy levels apply;

- 8.3.** For indirect supply, the farm dwellers are customers of the farmer and not direct customers of the licensed entity and the farm should already have an existing point of supply. The houses must be on the same property as the supply point;
- 8.4.** The farm dweller houses must have no electricity at the time of application and the electrification process of farm dweller houses must not have been started yet;
- 8.5.** The farmer must apply to the local licensed entity to take part in the electrification of dweller houses project. The farmer can only commence with the electrification of the dweller houses once licensed entity has granted approval for subsidy in writing;
- 8.6.** The local licensed entity requires prior permission and support of the farmer to market electricity and to educate dwellers in the safe and effective use of electricity. The farmer must agree to provide supply, subject to industry standards relating to safety and quality of supply;
- 8.7.** In the case of indirect supply, the farmer is responsible for paying all monthly tariffs for the supply point from which the dwellers are supplied. No Free Basic Electricity (FBE) will be given in this regard unless the local municipality chooses to supply as according to the respective indigent policies;
- 8.8.** If the indirect supply method of electrification is chosen by the farmer, the farmer is responsible for all work beyond the farmer's point of

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supply. In other words the low voltage network and infrastructure in the farmer's property must be built, financed, maintained and repaired by the farmer. The farmer becomes a re-seller of electricity as a commercial activity & is therefore required to have a trading License in terms of the section 8 of the Electricity Regulation Act;

- 8.9.** All wiring must be done according to SABS 0142 standard and a Certificate of Compliance must be issued by the service provider;
- 8.10.** In principle, the supply size in each farm dweller house should be guided by the suite of supply options, but to avoid complications of implementation, a network with a circuit breaker supply size of at least 20A per dweller house must be installed. The subsidy payment is, inter alia, subject to these conditions;
- 8.11.** The subsidy will only be paid out on 100% completion and inspection of the project;
- 8.12.** Government will pay through the local licensed entity, an amount which is guided by the maximum subsidy payable for the electrification of residential households based on the cost of the lowest rural supply size stated in the suit of supply options. This amount will be determined on an annual basis;
- 8.13.** The subsidy paid will not exceed the maximum subsidy payable for the electrification of rural households or the actual costs incurred if it is lower than the applicable subsidy. The farmer is responsible for submitting proof / details to the licensed entity of all costs involved in the electrification of the dweller houses;
- 8.14.** Where any infrastructure needs to be built beyond the supply point to

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supply the farm dwellers, the cost can be claimed against the subsidy. Any infrastructure built by the local licensed entity before the point of supply cannot be claimed against the subsidy;

- 8.15.** If assistance is received from other sources such as District Councils or Land Bank, this together with government's contribution will not exceed the costs of the connections;
- 8.16.** The subsidy is only for connections where the electrification subsidy was applied for; approval granted and has been included in that financial year's approved electrification programme;
- 8.17.** The set process of reporting and financial management must be followed in compliance with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999, (PFMA) (Act 1 of 1999), (as amended) and related Treasury Regulation.

9. Non-grid electrification

- 9.1.** Non-grid installations for farm dweller houses will form part of the annual electrification planning process;
- 9.2.** Licensed electricity distributors must approach farmers with information on the subsidy from Government;
- 9.3.** Government retains the right to inspect the systems from time to time.
- 9.4.** Non-Grid electrification of farm dweller houses must be aligned to Non-Grid Policy

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