

 <p>CITY OF SAN JOSE CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY</p> <p><i>Planning, Building and Code Enforcement</i></p>	#35 – Building Division Note	February 1, 2022
	NEC 2020 Energy Storage System Inspection Guidelines	

Purpose

Clarification regarding the applicable 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) requirements related to Energy Storage Systems and other power production sources utilizing Power Control System (PCS) technology.

Code References

2020 NEC Articles 230.67, 230.85(1), 230.85(3), 230.85.3, 690.12(B)(2)(1), 690.13(E), 690.41(B)(3), 690.56(A) and (B), 702.7(A), 705.10, 710.10, 712.10, 690.56(C), 690.56(C)(1), 690.56(C)(2), 705.11, 705.12, 705.13, 705.28(C)(2), 705.30(C), 706.15, 706.16(F), 710.15(A)

Background

The currently adopted 2019 California Electrical Code (CEC) based upon the 2017 National Electrical Code does not contain language that addresses requirements for Power Control System technology. This is an industry in which technology advances very rapidly, developing methodologies to meet code requirements that are not recognized by currently adopted code language. The 2022 CEC based upon the 2020 NEC will be adopted and become effective in California on January 1, 2023. The 2020 NEC is a nationally recognized standard and is currently adopted in other jurisdictions around the country.

Specifically, the 2020 NEC Article 705.13 recognizes this newer technology and prescribes the requirements when utilizing a PCS to protect busbars and conductors within a system containing multiple power production sources.

The applicable 2022 NEC code sections for ESS and related electrical systems are listed above.

Findings

Until the State of California adopts the 2022 CEC, ESS and other power production source projects installed utilizing PCS technology will be permitted to be designed and inspected under the provisions of the 2020 NEC in the City of San Jose. Applicants shall comply with the most recent version of the 2020 NEC in place at the time of approval.