

General Information - Obtaining Qualifying Facility Status As A Cogeneration or Small Power Production Facility

What is a Qualifying Facility?

A **Qualifying Facility (QF)** is a generating facility which meets the requirements for QF status under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) and part 292 of the Commission's Regulations ([18 C.F.R. Part 292](#)), and which meets certification and registration requirements for QF status.

There are two types of QFs: cogeneration facilities and small power production facilities.

A **Cogeneration Facility** is a generating facility that sequentially produces electricity and another form of useful thermal energy such as heat or steam that can be used for industrial, commercial, residential or institutional purposes, and otherwise meets the requirements of 18 C.F.R. §§ 292.203(b) and 292.205 for operation, efficiency and use of energy output.

A **Small Power Production Facility** is a generating facility whose primary energy source is renewable such as hydroelectric, wind, solar, biomass, waste, or geothermal resources, and that otherwise meets the requirements of 18 C.F.R. §§ 292.203(a), 292.203(c) and 292.204. Small power production facilities are limited in size to 80 MW, with the exception of certain types of facilities certified prior to 1995 and designated as "eligible" under section 3(17)(E) of the Federal Power Act ([FPA](#)) ([15 U.S.C. § 796\(17\)\(E\)](#)), which have no size limitation.

1. Additional Information on obtaining *qualifying facility* status may be found at www.ferc.gov by searching for "QF" or "qualifying facility" or using this direct link to the FERC site at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/electric/gen-info/qual-fac.asp>.
2. The procedures for becoming a qualifying small power production facility or a qualifying cogeneration facility are outlined in the 18 CFR §292.207 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulations implementing PURPA.
3. 18 C.F.R. 292.203 establishes an exemption, for generators with net power production capacities of 1 MW (1,000 KW) or less, from the requirement to file a Form 556 in order to obtain QF status. To determine if you are exempt from the requirement to file a Form 556 for your facility, based on the small size of your facility, download the Form 556 and complete section 7. If the value you obtain in line 7g is less than or equal to 1,000 KW, then your facility is exempt from the Form 556 filing requirement.

Although facilities smaller than 1 MW are exempt from the requirement to file, there is no prohibition against filing the Form No. 556 application either for self-certification or Commission certification for these facilities.

Facilities larger than 1 MW (1,000kW) in size as defined by maximum net power production capacity must file the FERC Form No. 556 either as a self-certification (or self-recertification) or as an application for Commission certification.

Effective June 1, 2010, if the Form No. 556 is required, it must be filed electronically via the Commission Electronic Filing (eFiling) system. In order to submit the Form No. 556, you must first download the form-fillable .pdf of Form No. 556. Once you have completed the .pdf form, navigate with your browser to the Commission's eFiling web site and submit the completed form as an attachment to an eFiling submission. Information about eFiling is available on the Commission's eFiling web page.

For all questions concerning filling out the Form No. 556 or QF-related policy, please email form556@ferc.gov or call S.L. Higginbottom at (202) 502-8561 or Paul Singh at (202) 502-8576.

If you have questions about or would like assistance using the Commission's eFiling system, please contact the eFiling Help Desk at efiling@ferc.gov or (202)-502-8258.

For further information see the FAQ on the FERC's QF info website at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/electric/gen-info/qual-fac.asp>.

4. The criteria for status as a qualifying small power production facility are set forth in §292.203(a) and §292.204 of the FERC regulations.
5. The criteria for status as a qualifying cogeneration facility are set forth in §292.203(b) and §292.205 of the FERC regulations.

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