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Department*

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Main Breaker rating for all residential services.

Approximately a year ago, RBD was informed by CSU that they were making some changes in their distribution system specifically effecting residential areas. They began to install more robust distribution with larger transformers to handle the increase demand and loading on the system due to the air-conditioning systems, hot tubs, and Photovoltaic systems being installed on homes.

At the time, the information received by RBD and CSU led us to believe we needed to have rated equipment which in some cases meant using all in one meter/panel enclosures to properly protect the meter sockets from the higher available fault current. As many of you know this was all based on the distance the service was from the utility transformer.

It has recently come to our attention, that the meter socket can be properly protected with the overcurrent device (main breaker or fuses) on either the line or load side of the socket. This was confirmed by both the manufacturers as well as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Due to this new information we are now able to allow all residential services to be built in the traditional manner with a self-contained meter socket outside, and a main breaker panel inside provided the main breaker is rated 22K. All in one meter/panel combos will of course still be allowed by anyone choosing to install them. RBD will not be mandating their use.

In lieu of trying to tell whether a 10K rated breaker or 22K rated breaker is appropriate for any particular residential service, RBD is mandating all main breakers be 22K rated.