

### **HB15-1364 - Need for this bill**

Ranchers/ farmers, and other rural residents who wished to install small hydro were experiencing bureaucratic hurdles in the permitting process. HB14-1030 was passed; it was a bipartisan bill to reduce red tape in the small hydro permitting process, provided guidelines for inspections and other parameters to streamline the process while protecting public safety.

The National Electric Code( NEC) does not contain specific standards for small hydro installations( 100 KW or less).

In some rural counties, there is no local government electrical inspection program, so the State Electrical Board (SEB) performs electrical inspections for building permits in those counties.

Over the summer of 2014, SEB inspectors voiced concerns with implementing the new statute created by HB14-1030, particularly the need for further direction on: 1. systems with UL listed inverters and 2. those using the induction motor technology. The CEO and DORA met with many diverse stakeholders (see list below) to attempt to promulgate rules under the new statute to address these issues. They brought in many stakeholders, then Representatives Mitsch Bush and Coram, the co prime sponsors of HB14-1030 got involved in the stakeholder group and continued to work to find an administrative solution.

The stakeholder group determined that additional statute was required. Thus, HB1364.

### **What HB1364 Does**

The bill clarifies and specifies inspection standards at 12-23-104 (2)(f) for SEB for inverter based and induction types of small (100 KW or less), hydro electric generating facilities, including those that are grid tied and net metered as well as those that are stand alone, " off the grid".

At Section 1 of proposed HB15-1364 the two basic types of systems are covered separately at (f) I. and II:

- inverter based systems, whether grid tied or not
- Induction based systems, whether grid tied or not

Both in person testimony and letters from witnesses will speak directly to these provisions.

### **Our Stakeholder Group included:**

DORA( representing SEB), CEO, Colorado Department of Agriculture  
DMEA- Delta Montrose Electric Association, CREA- Colorado Rural Electric Association  
Tri-State  
Xcel, Black Hills  
Small Hydro businesses and trade group  
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