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DATE: September 2017 (Last revised: April 12, 2012)
TO: Code Administration Customers and Staff
FROM: Gregg Fields, Director
SUBJECT: Requirements for Generator Permits
POLICY: 2012-05

This policy serves to clarify when a permit is required for temporary generators within the City of Alexandria. The decision as to when a permit is required is dependent on the type of the generator being used. The following guidance should be used to determine whether a permit is required:

Neither a permit nor a grounding electrode system is required if the generator is vehicle mounted and/or portable in nature, and meets the criteria established in this policy. Please note that if a grounding electrode system is not be required for either generator type, no permits would be required for the generator.

Portable Generators:

1. The generator supplies only equipment mounted on the generator, cord-and-plug connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the generator, or both; and
2. The non-current carrying metal parts of equipment and the equipment grounding conductor terminals of the receptacles are bonded to the generator frame.

Vehicle-Mounted Generators:

1. The frame of the generator is bonded to the vehicle frame; and the generator supplies only equipment located on the vehicle or cord-and-plug connected equipment mounted on the vehicle, or both equipment located on the vehicle and cord-and-plug-connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the vehicle or the generator; and

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2. The non-current carrying metal parts of equipment and the equipment grounding conductor terminals of the receptacles are bonded to the generator frame.

The above are conditions where a grounding electrode system would not be required for generator. If the portable generator complies with these definitions, no permits would be required.

If the generator is to power building wiring systems through a transfers switch (fixed or portable), or the generator is serving as the primary temporary power for a building or structure's permanent electrical system during repairs, an electrical permit would be required.

The following examples are provided for clarification:

- A 75 KW generator designed with lights, attached and integral with the generator for lighting at a sporting event is being planned. If the lighting system (equipment) is located on the generator and is a manufactured lighting system, no permits or grounding electrode system would be required. [NEC 250.34]
- A 2200 watt portable, listed generator with factory installed outlets, and without modifications would not require a permit or grounding electrode system. [NEC 250.34]
- A 75 KW generator is to be installed at a construction site to provide power to a building while under construction. It is feeding panel enclosures, temporary lighting and power outlets. This generator, although considered portable, would require a permit, a grounding electrode system, and inspections. [NEC 250.34]
- A 75 KW generator is to be installed for a carnival. This generator would require a permit, a grounding electrode system, and inspections. This is due to the nature of the installation that includes additional wiring, sub-panels, disconnects, etc. If the equipment or receptacles are not located on the actual generator, then the provisions of NEC 250.34 do not apply and a grounding electrode system is required. [NEC 250.50]

If the generator has no receptacles or equipment (such as noted in the sports lighting example) mounted on the generator, and is it a listed unit with the lighting or equipment, it would not need a permit or grounding electrode system. However, if there is additional wiring that will be installed beyond the generator, a permit is required.

Permit Center Staff will ask whether the generator **is portable or vehicle mounted** when determining permit and inspection requirements. They will also ask if the unit is factory (listed) designed for its application and if it has receptacles or equipment to which it is to supply mounted directly on the portable generator.

This policy refers to portable or vehicle mounted generators. All other generators (fixed location) require permits and inspections.