NORTHERN POWERGRID Foundation

INSTALLING A GENERATOR HELP GUIDE:

When planning to install a generator and a hook-up point, there are several important factors to consider to ensure a safe and efficient generator installation that meets your power needs:

Type of Generator

- **Portable Generators:** These are less expensive and can be moved around as needed. They require manual operation and frequent refuelling.
- **Standby Generators:** These are permanently installed and integrated with your electrical system. They can automatically switch on during an outage and provide higher power output.

Power Output

- Determine the power requirements of your building/ facilities. Calculate the total wattage needed by adding up the power consumption of essential appliances and devices.
- Ensure the generator's capacity matches your needs to avoid overloading.

Connections

- Install a transfer switch to safely connect the generator to your building's electrical system. This prevents back feeding, which can be dangerous for utility workers.
- Ensure all wiring and connections meet local electrical codes.

Fuel Type

- Generators can run on various fuels such as gasoline, diesel, natural gas, or propane. Choose a fuel type that is readily available and convenient for you.

Site Assessment

- Select a suitable location for the generator, ideally outdoors and away from windows and doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Ensure the site is accessible for maintenance and refuelling.

Safety

- Follow safety precautions such as positioning the generator outdoors, using proper ventilation, and keeping it away from children and pets.
- Regularly test and maintain the generator to ensure it operates safely and efficiently.

Cost

- Consider the initial cost of the generator, installation, and ongoing maintenance.
- Budget for fuel and any additional accessories needed.

Professional Installation

- Hiring a certified electrician or contractor can ensure the installation is done correctly and safely
- Checklist for Finding an Installer:
  - Ask for examples of their work.
  - Get a detailed written quote.
  - Check the warranties provided.

Permits and Restrictions

- Check local regulations and obtain any necessary permits for installation.
- Ensure compliance with zoning laws and noise restrictions.

Testing

- Once installed ensure to regularly test the generator to ensure it is functioning properly and ready for use during an outage.