

Renewable Energy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location:

Board of Public Utilities Office
44 S Clinton Ave., Trenton
1st floor Multi Purpose Room

Call-in Number: (866) 740-1260

Conference ID: 2183408

Webinar: No webinar this month

Larry Barth brought the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Introduction

- 43 attendees in person and 30 attendees calling in

Market Manager Transition

- Maureen Quaid announced that she is leaving effective 9/1 and will be working with CSG out of the Portland OR office; Mark Valori of CSG will be replacing Maureen and Mark Loeser has been recommended as the Technical Director.

Policy discussion

2010 budget

- Revised budget in place with no impact on RE. True up later this year with SACP payments. SACP payment about \$40MM. According to Ron Jackson the true up on SACP should be out later this year.
- Will be netted against \$30 million in clean energy fund which will go to NJ Treasury.
- Utility programs approved for EE.
- The DOE has not yet approved NJ state energy plan (SEP). State law for use of fed money must be "Made in America".
- Questions were asked about the SACP into RE or will it be transferred to state budget? This is still unknown based on recommendations that state budget transfer \$30M from Clean Energy Fund (CEF) to General Fund from 2009 budget, but SACP/ACP by law to CEF. Final 2009/2010 budget impact still TBD. MSEIA noted that reallocation may be problematic for future solar and RE development
- 2009- 2010 budgets are conservative, which do not include the interest and SACP payments

2010 Program plan

- Mike Ambrosio discussed the timeline was discussed. The 2010 Program plan is still in preliminary discussion and subject to change. Today the revised Program plan is presented to RE committee. On 8/28 complete draft to OCE with the final plan filed with BPU in mid September.
- Budget does not include carry over from 2009. 7/5 report for 2009 due from MM for 2010 budget.
- At the next RE Committee meeting on 9/22 the budget should include carry over and new funding.
- In the Sept – Nov timeframe the BPU will have a meeting for stakeholder input on the 2010 Program plan. Final plan to BPU in late Nov.

- David Hill presented the MM recommendation on the budget.
- Budget allocations reflect market conditions and anticipated volumes for 2010
 - Variation from proposed CRA allocations between solar and non-solar
- Budgets & savings built from “bottom up”
 - By measure for incentives and savings
 - By contract line item for non-rebate costs
- Solar Rebate Market Growth and Demand Remains Healthy
 - SREC based financing and securitization underway
 - Increased public interest
 - 2nd Funding cycle fully subscribed
 - SREC Registration Program is gaining interest
 - New Contractor Participation
- Class I REC Market Development in NJ lagging
 - ~90% of requirements coming from out of state resources
 - Market Manager Account Manager and Market Segmentation continuing
 - What are barriers for Class 1 project development – based on immature markets that have not fully explored?
 - OCE indicated receptivity to creative approaches to stimulating the market---for example, might consider of upfront incentives for Class 1 project development.
- Potential Pitfalls
 - Extended or worsening economic slow-down
 - Assessment of recent legislation on prevailing wage impacts
 - State budget discussions
- A question was asked if the Funding Cycle 3 will be fully subscribed before the end of the year.
 - Additional monies will be probably added from CORE ~ \$10MM, which should extend the funding through the end of the year
- BPU also considering reallocation of other RE budgets in not fully subscribed.
- A question was raised about when will the 10MW residential Capacity Block be reached?
 - Mid to late Q4
- How can non-profits take advantage of ARRA and fed programs?
 - This is potentially a hole in the program that could be addressed through the 2010 program. Development of a financing program for non-profit. MM will set up a meeting to address stakeholder concerns.
- Comparing the CRA to the MM 2010 proposed budget shows a shift toward solar in response to market forces for the various technologies.
- 2010 REIP program design
 - Maintain funding cycle model –remove buffer mechanism
 - Maintain residential incentive capacity block step-down (implement step-down for non-residential incentives)
 - Maintain EE requirements for residential / implement EE requirements for C/I
 - C/I Direct install would be the program for full incentive and possible Tier 2 for residential installation, but HPwES must be consulted to see if capacity is available to meet this demand.
 - D/I audit is a non-cost impact on applicants.
 - Potential increase for wind system size up to 1 million kWh per year estimated annual production
 - Extend completion deadline for wind and public projects

- Program requirement for metering all projects (pending Board Order/Rule-making)
 - Entity cap modifications
 - Add equipment to NJREMI
 - Renewable CHP
- Metering recommendations for all projects is cost dependent for all existing and future projects. The BPU is currently in discussions with providers, but to be considered in 2010.
- There was a discussion on Public projects that have requested more than one extension. MM to verify status of public projects that have applied for second extensions, process needs to be refined to allow projects to be developed and completed within the specified timeframes.
- 2010 CPC
 - Utilization of customer account look up, along with other Clean Power Marketer campaigns and Community Partner initiatives to be the main drivers of the Program in 2010.
 - Boost engagement of local New Jersey communities to support renewable energy through the Community Partners Initiative & Green New Jersey Resource Team.
 - Consider continuation of back to back spring bill inserts.
 - Continue integration of CPC with broader energy initiatives; such as examining links to Community Renewables facilitated by potential RPS rule change.
 - Program needs justification of how to promote RE in NJ through the program. Questions asked about program effectiveness and growth. There are currently about 14K enrolled, but it has not grown significantly with the look up service.
 - There is a public stakeholder meeting scheduled in the first week or so in September to discuss this proposal.
 - There will be a presentation of CPC to update the current status of the program.
- NJREMI – implementation based on approved BO, and we are working on the certification process with EDA. Processes have been developed and comments have been received and forms will be submitted to the BPU this week. The certification of manufacturers will be an upfront process.
- Prevailing wage implementation
 - Board is working on the rules as required by statute.

Updates

JCPL / ACE

- Expressions of interest due 8/20 and full package submitted on 8/25. Next solicitation in Q4.
- MM internal process will require 4 weeks for residential and 2 weeks for Non-residential (SRP)

PSEG Solar 4 All

- 80 MW 40 MW on poles, 25 MW on PSEG property and 10 MW for applicants on third party sites and 5 MW for UEZ.

OSW

- Meteorological tower construction and work progressing weather permitting. More solicitations for further development in process at BPU.

RPS

- Class 1 vintage life
 - Recommendation for extend it to two years similar to SRECs. Provide stability and funding certainty for Class 1 projects.
 - Could be part of RPS rulemaking process that is ongoing. AMM reported on the process for the summary from last meeting notes. Rule amendments for solar carve out change to fixed goal per governor's request based on MWh.

Rulemaking meeting in mid September. Considerations of Class 1 NJ carve out to help stabilize and promote project development.

NM / INX phase II

- Actually metering requirements and real time NM after RPS rule from Board due sometime this fall (October) recommendation to remove NM cap up to 100% of onsite load or aggregate consumption.

Community Renewables

- Stakeholder process completed and Staff is discussing a proposal with BPU. Additional stakeholder processes will be completed after proposal.

Marketing and Communications

- SREC registration program
 - Being updated to differentiate from REIP to include installers aggregators and forms to be posted in the next couple of weeks.
- 4000 solar installations, significant media pickup was cited.
- Two events last week for HPwES and RE. one was RE and EE and one was SRP.

2009 CEC

- Making preps for CEC for speakers and venue using the whole building approach. MSEIA commented that this may not be the most and best use of funds, but with the whole building approach it is not just an RE. CEC nominations are due by 9/15.

Next meeting September 22, 2009 at Conservation Service Group, 75 Lincoln Highway, Suite 100, Iselin, NJ 08830

Renewable Energy Committee Meeting - Attendees

Attendees

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Board of Public Utility Office

44 S. Clinton Street (1st Floor, Multi-purpose Room)

Trenton, NJ

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