



Renewable Energy Committee Meeting Notes
September 18, 2014
Conservation Services Group Offices - Iselin, NJ

***Disclaimer:** This RE Committee is an opportunity for stakeholders and other interested parties to have open and frank discussions regarding policy and issues confronting the renewable energy community that are within the jurisdiction of the Board. These meetings are intended to address issues of general concern. Staff cannot comment on or provide specific answers to questions about pending applications or petitions. Ultimately, information provided and positions developed during these meetings may or may not form the basis for Staff recommendations to the Board. By law, statements made by Staff cannot bind the Board in its decisions. Only the Board can make decisions on these matters at its Open Public Meetings. While attendees may choose to record or take notes of the meeting, please refrain from interrupting the flow and/or tenor of the discussion with questions that pertain to your note-taking.*

I. Introductions (J. Lypse)

Ms. Lypse called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and asked the participants in the room and those on the phone to introduce themselves.

II. OCE Updates (S. Hunter, M. Ambrosio)

Mr. Hunter said that actions taken at the August 20 BPU agenda meeting included the conditional certification of two Subsection (t) projects from PSE&G for increased system size with a two-year completion deadline. The September 30 BPU agenda includes FY2015 NJCEP budgets and compliance filings.

Mr. Ambrosio said Treasury issued an RFI in July on the new NJCEP Program Administrator and is currently reviewing the responses. He said Betsy Ackerman reported that the RFP is expected to be released in December, and that the BPU has hired a procurement expert to assist with the RFP.

Mr. Ambrosio said he was targeting the BPU's November agenda meeting for the FY2014 NJCEP budget true-up. The true-up will address differences between estimated and actual expenditures and will also address increased revenue.

He reported that Ms. Ackerman circulated final reports of the CRA work groups internally, and is awaiting decision. A new work group is being formed to evaluate the NJCEP's programs to see which should be continued, discontinued or modified in the future. This group would have a February-March timeline that would apply to programs for FY2016.

III. Solar Act

Mr. Hunter said that in addition to the two Subsection (t) projects conditionally approved in August, there are two more applications in-house. He also said that Staff is developing rules for Subsection (t).

With regard to Subsection (s), Mr. Hunter said that Staff is working on deferral criteria for projects that were deferred in April 2013. He said the matter is scheduled for the BPU's October agenda meeting.

IV. Program Updates (C. Garrison)

Mr. Garrison presented the solar market update (Presentation 1). He reported that preliminary installed capacity as of August 31 is 1,344.6 MW, with 7.8 MW reported as being installed in August. Additionally, approximately 361.5 MW of solar capacity was reported to be in the pipeline as of August 31. He noted that 2014 year-to-date installed capacity is 105% of 2013's YTD capacity for the same period.

Mr. Garrison's presentation also included breakdowns on grid supply vs. behind-the-meter for installed projects and pipeline; grid supply projects by Solar Act subsection; breakdown by third party ownership; capacity added by calendar quarter; deactivations; and SREC trading statistics and price trends.

At the request of a participant on the phone, Mr. Garrison said that future monthly reports will include historical pipeline/completion data and cumulative information. In response to another participant's request, Mr. Garrison said that aggregate data from the Milestone Reports for Q3 (ending September 30) will be released to the public sometime in October.

V. DOE SunShot Initiative -- Rooftop Solar Challenge II Grant Presentation (Liz Compitello, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission)

Ms. Compitello's PowerPoint presentation was shown at the meeting and distributed to the RE Listserv immediately following the meeting. She said the USDOE Sun Shot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge Round II aimed at following up on what the Kansas City metro planning organization did in Round 1 to reduce soft costs of small scale solar installation (permitting, financing, customer acquisition, etc.), which now makes up 64% of a project's costs. She noted that the Sun Shot program is trying to achieve grid parity, i.e., the price of solar-generated power equaling the price of grid power.

There was a discussion among participants and Board staff on municipal ordinances, permitting, local code enforcement in New Jersey and firefighter safety.

IV. Program Updates – continued

a. Biopower Update (R. Reisman)

Mr. Reisman reported that the FY2015 Sustainable Biopower Competitive Solicitation is being finalized following the review of public comments on a straw proposal recommending revisions to the FY2014 solicitation. He said Staff expects to have the Solicitation on the agenda for the BPU's October 22 meeting. Once the solicitation is approved by the Board, the Market Manager will release the solicitation as instructed.

b. Renewable Electric Storage Update (J. Lupse)

Ms. Lupse reported that the FY2015 Renewable Electric Storage Competitive Solicitation is also being finalized following a review of public comments on a 2nd Revised Straw Proposal issued on July 25. She added that Staff is also expecting to have this Solicitation on the BPU's October 22 agenda. Once the solicitation is approved by the Board, the Market Manager will release the solicitation as instructed.

c. Operations Update (T. Gray)

Ms. Gray reported that the SREC Registration program continues to see high volumes of registrations – 1,234 in August and 1,419 in July. The timeline for reviewing registrations is now 7-8 weeks. She said August acceptance letters are up to 714 totaling 13.5 MW. She also reported that there were 556 completions in August.

Ms. Gray said the Market Manager is proposing a change in its practice of allowing addendums to contracts in order to comply with 10-day rule. She requested public comments through September 29 on the proposed elimination of the addendum process.

Ms. Gray outlined 2014-15 program changes that would streamline the process and work toward a more electronic process. These include reducing paperwork and doing more installer training. She said the Market Manager will no longer be asking for PV Watts, a PV Commissioning form and shading analysis in the Final As-built package.

VI. Net Metering and Interconnection Update (J. Teague)

Mr. Teague discussed the Technical Working Group meeting on August 14 at JCP&L. He said the EDCs presented their proposal for net metering eligible Class 1 renewable energy generation combined with other distributed generation and storage. Members of the Technical Working Group were asked to submit comments to the Office of Clean Energy by September 5 for review, and three comments were received by the deadline. The Working Group will fully discuss the EDC proposal and comments at its next meeting on October 7 in Trenton.

VII. RPS Issues (R. Jackson)

Mr. Jackson said prescriptive changes and near term rules have been developed for proposal and are at the Governor's office for review. Once released, they will go to the Board and will be published in the New Jersey Register for public comment. He said Solar Act Subsections (r) and (t) rules will be dealt with at a later time.

Mr. Jackson said that third-party suppliers and EDCs on behalf of BGS providers should submit their Class 1 and Class 2 compliance reports by October 1, although he noted that some have done so already. He said the due date for solar compliance reports has been extended to December 1. Class 1 and Class 2 reports are due by October 1. He added that the preliminary retail sales number for Energy Year 2014 is 76,764,388 MWH.

VIII. Other Topics / New Business

Mr. Hunter read the disclaimer at the beginning of these Meeting Notes. There being no new business, Ms. Lupse adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on October 14 in Trenton.