



Renewable Energy Committee Meeting Notes

May 13, 2014

BPU 1st Floor Meeting Room - Trenton, 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 and R. Reisman)

Ms. Lypse called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and asked the participants in the room and those on the phone to introduce themselves. Mr. Reisman read the disclaimer above.

II. OCE Updates (S. Hunter)

a. Regulatory / Legislation Update

Mr. Hunter reported that Staff is currently working on the FY2015 CRA proposal. He indicated that additional information on the CRA, budgets and program administration would be disclosed at the Energy Efficiency Committee meeting on Friday, May 16.

b. Board Orders and Proceedings

Mr. Hunter said the Orders issued by the Board at its April agenda meeting included the approval of a State Energy Program budget for the 2014-15 program year and denials of petitions to re-open the Fisherman's Energy proceeding and the extension of an SREC purchase sale agreement.

He said the agenda for the May 21 meeting includes two Motions for Reconsideration under Subsection (t); exemptions for certain BGS providers from increased solar requirements; and several energy efficiency incentives.

III. Update on the Solar Act (S. Hunter)

Mr. Hunter described the proposed Chapter 8 rule changes (Presentation #2). He noted that it is a two-pronged rulemaking process, one for short term and one for long term.

Prescriptive changes to Subchapter 2 – RPS rules include:

- Definitions for “brownfield”, “Class I RE”, “Class II RE”, “connected to the distribution system” etc.
- Revised RPS solar schedule as a percentage of electric sales
- Treatment of solar as being subject to prevailing wage
- Re-adoption of changes to aggregated net metering and net metering and interconnection rules

Proposed rule changes to Subchapter 2 - RPS Rules (SREC registration program @ N.J.A.C 14:8-2.4):

- Change the submittal time for SRP registrations for net metered, aggregated net metered and onsite generation from 10 to 14 calendar days from contract execution date.
- Changes to accommodate grid supply projects that require Board approval:
 - Require SRP registration within 14 days of Board approval.
 - Extend construction period to two years with the availability of one six month extension, if needed

a. Subsection (q)

Mr. Hunter said Round 2 SRP Acceptance letters were issued on April 30th. He added that Staff is currently monitoring the program and capacity to determine if there is a need for any additional rounds.

b. Subsection (r)

Mr. Hunter said Staff is developing a straw proposal on criteria for Board approval (impact on SREC market, open space preservation, impact on rates and impact on EDC ability to service its customers).

c. Subsection (t)

Mr. Hunter said the Subsection (t) rulemaking “codifies the program we have now.” He noted that Staff is working with the Board’s lawyers to determine which sections are necessary to add to the rules.

IV. Update on the Energy Resiliency Bank (M. Winka)

Mr. Winka said the State’s proposal for the ERB is still in front of HUD; they have until the end of May to approve it. The ERB is a \$200 million request within a total of \$1.4 billion in Sandy recovery plan funds.

Mr. Winka also noted that:

- The ERB will provide onsite energy systems to facilities damaged by Superstorm Sandy.
- The ERB will have fewer restrictions on energy storage than REIP program.
- Projects have to be tied to the Superstorm Sandy affected areas.
- Facilities must be public or small businesses and within nine counties designated by FEMA as damaged by Superstorm Sandy.

V. Investigating Approaches to Mitigate Solar Development Volatility (C. Garrison)

Mr. Garrison gave Presentation #1. Preliminary installed solar capacity as of April 30 is 1,272.9 MW, with 5.8 MW added in May. The pipeline is currently at 357.1 MW. He presented data on the nature of projects in the pipeline, PPA vs. non-PPA projects (defining what is classified as a PPA), deactivations, 2014-16 installed capacity scenarios and SREC trading statistics.

A participant recommended using the term “Third Party Ownership (TPO)” rather than PPA because it suggests a broader and more accurate definition. Mr. Hunter agreed with the new terminology.

VI. Program Updates

a. Biopower working group update (R. Reisman)

Mr. Reisman reported that the submittal period for applications to the FY14 Sustainable Biopower Competitive Solicitation ended on April 21. He noted that the Market Manager had reviewed the application submitted for completeness and had passed its determination along to the Solicitation Evaluation Committee.

b. Energy Storage working group update (J. Lypse)

Ms. Lypse said the Market Manager would be sending a revised straw proposal to Staff for its review. She noted that the initial straw proposal had been revised based on the public comments received and the discussion that took place at the March 13 working group meeting. She said the solicitation will likely be launched in FY15.

c. Operations Update (T. Gray)

Ms. Gray gave Presentation #3, which featured data on SRP registrations (there was a spike in April with 830 registrations received), acceptance letters, final as-builts, completions and PPA vs. non-PPA ratios.

V. Update on RPS Issues (S. Hunter)

Mr. Hunter said that Ron Jackson has some statistics on EY13 RPS compliance results he will present next month.

VI. Other Topics / New Business

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10 at 1:00 pm.

Items to be addressed at the next meeting include:

- High, medium and low assumptions for installed solar capacity scenarios to be included in Mr. Garrison's report on Mitigating Solar Development Volatility
- Milestone results
- Discontinuing the option to submit an addendum to the contract for compliance in the SRP
- Analysis of Authorization to Operate vs. QC/QA Selected status

**Renewable Energy Committee Meeting
Attendees**

Tuesday, May 13, 2014
Board of Public Utilities

1:00pm - 3:30pm

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Renewable Energy Committee Meeting

Attendees

Tuesday, May 13, 2014
Board of Public Utilities

1:00pm - 3:30pm

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Attendees

Tuesday, May 13, 2014
 Board of Public Utilities

1:00pm - 3:30pm

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