



Renewable Energy Committee Meeting

May 8, 2012

BPU 1st Floor Meeting Room - Trenton, NJ

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

I. Regulatory Update (M. Winka)

- Transition
 - The board had a special agenda meeting at the end of April which transmitted the RFP to Treasury and that's under final review with Treasury and those reviews are still in process. The four-year funding level for the clean energy program will be tied with the release of the RFP.
 - The next steps will be to develop and put out a straw proposal for the total funding level (split between financing and rebate). That will be coming out shortly. The process will also include a potential market study with Ener-knot, which should be done by middle of August.
 - RFP: The Commissioner has asked for an overview of the funding level by years and our expenditures. The BPU put together a spreadsheet together with AEG that will be circulated.
 - BPU/AEG is preparing a "next steps in the process." And will come out with a straw proposal in case the new budget for the CEP's is approved. Will come out sometime at the end of May or early June.
- Legislation
 - Bill passed in the lame duck session- PACE Bill (Property Assessment Clean Energy Municipal financing program). The authority is with DCA to develop those regulatory structures and BPU is starting initial meetings with DCA to go through the development of that Rule proposal.
 - Rule Makings in Process: Stand-by charge Statute; requires BPU to evaluate stand-by charges. Managed by the division of energy, still going through stake-holder process.
 - Societal Benefit Charge Program: BPU got responses to questions sent out that raised several points that were asking for formal interpretations. Working on a straw proposal.
 - Two bills that are being discussed by Legislature- one is a solar thermal bill to develop a program at EDA for a revolving loan and grant

program, establishing a commission to find out if solar thermal is cost efficient. The other was a solar bill that would require a designation on any building that had solar on it so that the fire department would know there was a solar system on the roof, plus the addition of an external disconnect switch.

- **Board Orders and Proceedings**
 - The board has delegated the ability for the utilities to make the decision of extending SREC PSA Contracts. There were six criteria that were established in the Board Order for utilities to make that determination. The bar is now set for how to get extensions.
- **Solar Transition – Update**
 - On the agenda for May 23rd is the Solar Transition order. BPU is finalizing a recommendation for the extension of EDC programs.
 - The revisions to the compliance filing with a True Up order. There are some clean up issues the BPU needs to address.
- **BGS Hearing – Process**
 - On May 4th there was a BGS hearing which was Chaired by President Hannah. The solar energy industry assoc. made a proposal to use longer term contracts for the BGS auction.

II. Status Update (S. Hunter)

- **N.J.A.C. 14:8 rule amendments**
 - The Board approved the Rule re-adoption for Ch. 8. Adapted new rules for the SREC Registration program but will not go into effect until they're published in the NJ Register. The expected publication date is June 4th, or June 18th if the first date is not accomplished. The new rules include submitting your SREC Registration package within ten days after you have a contract signed. If you already have a contract but you're not registered, the SREC registration requirement comes in 30 days. If these rules are not complied with, one will not be able to trade their SRECs for one year after the authorization to energize date. The other primary change is that for projects that are less than 10kw, within 6 months of the rules being published, systems have to have a production meter installed.
 - M. Ambrosio asked if there is any training that will be in place for customers to read their meters.
 - S. Hunter answered that the information will be circulated through GATS, but we haven't done anything about how to read the meter.
 - M. Ambrosio asked if there will be any verification that the meter was installed.

- S. Hunter answered that we will not be able to legally create an SREC but we will not be personally checking that the meters were installed. We can send out an inspection team if we absolutely need to.
- C. Garrison added that we will be speaking with GATS about what their verification process will be.
- Small wind program
 - An extension was granted to NREL for their forensic study. Originally it was scheduled to have a final report in March, and they've asked for an extension. They're in the final process of having a peer review of that study before it is made public. A stakeholder meeting will be scheduled after the report is released to decide what to do next with the small wind program.

III. Program Coordinator Update (M. Ambrosio)

- Revised Compliance Filing
 - There were a number of proposed changes to the programs that were adopted by the Board in December. In late March it was circulated, most of it (90%) was EE related. On C&I side there were two new programs that required contract modifications. Due to the transition, they decided not to make contract modifications at this time. These programs will not be moving forward at this point and will pick up post-transition.
 - One additional change was the Board approved an order for extensions of PSA's as part of the EDC financing programs. Also modifying the SRP program rules.

IV. 2012 Program Updates (C. Garrison)

- Installed Capacity Update
 - The preliminary installed solar capacity as of 4/30/12 is approx. 769.9 MW.
 - Approx 39 MW installed in current month
 - The preliminary solar capacity project pipeline as of 4/30/12 is approx 510 MW.
 - The pipeline capacity was 526 MW on 3/31/12
- Proposed Extension Policy for ESFI
 - Proposed update of extension policy for ESFI to be consistent with 3/12/12 Board Order granting the authority to extend a PSA.
 - Applies to executed PSAs resulting from Solicitation Round 6 (Feb 2011) or Solicitation Round 7 (June 11) of the EDC SREC Financing Program.

V. 2012 Operations Update (R. Reisman)

- 865 Applications received in April

- High number due to the amount of incomplete applications sent back to registrants and resubmitted.
- NJ Certification number timelines:
 - SRP Registrations: 3-4 week
 - REIP/CORE Applications: 4-6 weeks
- REMI no longer accepting submissions. CEMI program with EDA still not in place due to US Trade Rep denying program until China situation is rectified.

VI. Update on Interconnection Issues (J. Teague)

- Net Metering & Interconnection Meeting - 6/7/12
 - A notice was sent to the listserv indicating that on June 7th there will be a meeting with the stakeholders in Trenton from 12-4pm. It was also requested to send in suggested agenda items. The finalized level 2 and 3 interconnection form should be completed shortly.
 - M. Winka asked about the status of the complaint form on the website.
 - J. Teague answered that the complaints have been addressed, there are 2 being worked on and should be completed by the end of this week or next week. There are 2 issues he is addressing that went directly to him he is finishing up as well.
 - M. Winka commented that when you switch 3rd party suppliers they zero out the account and true up any excess. So you shouldn't switch more than once a year. It might not be beneficial to do if you look at the whole equation, so please remind your customers of this fact. It will be cleared up on the website.

VII. BGS Hearing – Comments

- Solar Alliance – Katie Bolcar
 - In addition to utility finance programs, need to explore other ways to provide and develop supplemental mechanisms for long-term SREC contracts.
 - Auction 10-yr SREC product to 'Renewable Serving Entities'
 - RSEs retire SRECs to meet their obligation, failure = SACP
 - BGS suppliers purchase a minimum % of SREC obligation from RSEs, with price determined on rolling annual basis.
 - SEIA recommends that BPU establish a work group to flesh out details and institute a process for phasing in this concept.

VIII. Other Topics / New Business

- a. Next RE Committee meeting in Trenton on 6/12/12 tentative
- b. Question on ESIP program will be going out to RE Committee

Renewable Energy Committee Meeting

Attendees

Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Board of Public Utilities

1:00pm - 3:30pm

Initial	Name	Company	Phone	E-mail
	Ambrosio, Mike	AEG		mambrosio@appliedenergygroup.com
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