



## **Renewable Energy Committee Meeting**

April 18, 2012

BPU 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room - Trenton, NJ

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

**Call-in number: 1-866-740-1260 -- Meeting ID: 2183408#**

### **Agenda**

#### I. 2012 Program Updates (C. Garrison)

##### a. Installed Capacity Update

- The preliminary installed solar capacity as of 3/31/12 is approximately 729 MW.
- Approximately 41 MW installed in the current month.
- The preliminary solar capacity project pipeline as of 3/31/12 is approximately 526 MW.
- The pipeline capacity was 542 MW on 2/29/12.
- We have seen a spike in the first quarter of deactivations and although the scrub rate is a little high, we also have a high amount of approvals. There were approximately 10 projects at 1.8 and 1.9 MW that were part of the scrub rate, so the 28 MW scrub was a mix of various projects and not attributed to just one project.
- Suggestion made that we should have the utilities scrub the projects at the same time we do, so that it frees up capacity on their end and opens lines. Discussion regarding notifying the utility at the same time we deactivate the project and notify the customer.
  - L. Bladen from ACE commented that it is up to the customer to notify them if an application needs to be cancelled.
  - M. Ambrosio asked if there was a timeline or expiration deadline for the utility similar to what we have in NJCEP, or is it open ended?
  - L. Bladen responded that there are certain steps along the way the customer must respond to and usually that is a 30 day timeline, and depending on what is needed they are told the application may be cancelled without a response. But keep in mind the initial approval to install the proposed system sits until the project is completed, so they can stay in indefinitely.
  - C. Garrison asked L. Bladen if the projects that are still pending, is that counted against when you're considering additional interconnections? Do they count against the capacity on the circuits that you'd be looking at? To which she responded "yes because they are in queue".
  - M. Ambrosio would like to speak to other EDCs and perhaps come up with a policy amongst them all to clear up pending application issues and skewed results from the reports NJCEP produces regarding scrub rate.

- b. The SRP Guidebook released on 3/9/12 and is available on NJCEP RE landing page. Comments and questions can be submitted to [Ronald.Reisman@csggrp.com](mailto:Ronald.Reisman@csggrp.com).

## II. 2012 Operations Update (J. Lupse)

### a. SRP Registration Trend

- Registrations are slowly coming down, but are still high numbers. Timelines are very short, what we received on 4/9 was approved the week of 4/16.
- 558 registrations received for March, 399 approved at 45.47 MW. A large portion of that capacity is due to 2 large grid supply projects.

### b. Final As Built Paperwork

- Majority of Final As Built paperwork received in March is SRP, 491 of the 498 received.
- NJ Certification numbers are processed within 3-4 weeks of waiver/passed inspection for SRP projects and 4-6 weeks for rebated projects.
- 551 projects pushed to completion in March at 45.8 MW.

### c. NJREMI

- Of the \$1,000,000 budget, the NJREMI actual as of 4/16/12 is \$206,379.49
- There are still probably some applications we've received by the deadline that we are processing and reviewing, so that number will climb. This is a subset of what we are already presenting for capacity, not in addition to.

## III. Policy Update (M. Ambrosio/ M. Winka)

### a. Regulatory Update/ Board Order and Proceedings

- There was a summary of changes circulated in March all on EE side, the only major one was the EDA. The Board approved budget at 2 CHP programs, a small program for less than a MW managed by TRC and a larger program for greater than a MW managed by EDA. The Board approved last week EDA's large solicitation. That is subject to final approval, the ETA on issuing EDA's solicitation is April 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - The program changes that were circulated - staffs targeting the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Agenda meeting to approve those. The small CHP program is open to any size project, although the incentive is capped at a MW, the change would limit projects to a MW or less.
- Normally at this time of year we do the true-up budget, where we true-up for the difference between estimated 2011 expenses and actual 2011 expenses. Given the Governor's budget proposal, the staff won't make any recommendations to change budgets until that plays out. It will probably be late June before we have final direction on whether or not the Governor's proposal to appropriate \$210 million goes through.
  - There are 2 pieces to that, one if they are going to take the full amount and then in the past the Board's budget is on a calendar year, the State's budget in on a fiscal year so there's a bunch of moving parts and because of that, staff has held off.
- SBC law that is mostly an EE issue was passed that requires us to put in place a program where the C&I customer can manage their own SBC program up to 50% of their costs for 100% of their SBC that they would have paid into the program.
- There is an evaluation that we're going through on the DG standby charges. There was a bill that was passed last session that requires a study with electric EDCs to look at stand by charges and develop criteria to evaluate the potential for developing stand by charges that don't disadvantage the utilities or the DG customer. Questions can be directed to Renee Dimunich at office of Energy.
- In the CRA process we had an order that was issued October or November of last year that set out the questions and the process and gave the hearing officer the ability to set up

the hearing. There will be a stakeholder process for the CRA and we will be able to talk more about it after the release of the RFP.

- b. N.J.A.C. 14:8 rule amendments
  - At the next meeting which will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>, on the agenda will be the net metering and RPS rule adoptions that we had the proposal out about a year ago, the registration metering requirements. They will be presented to the Board for their consideration and adoption.
- c. Legislation
  - Not much movement, parties are starting to sit down and might be a little movement. That negotiation is happening directly at the Governor's office.
- d. Solar Transition – Update
  - Probably won't be on the May 1<sup>st</sup> agenda, right now scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> to present to the Board staff's recommendations on the straw proposal based on the comments that we heard at the hearing and comments that were submitted.
- e. Small wind program
  - A small extension was issued for the NREL study. They are getting information from the turbine manufacturers to finalize and the other parties involved. Part of NREL's process is to get input from all parties involved on draft report and factor that into final draft that goes out for peer review. When that comes out we would consider that public information and post it on the web.

#### IV. Update on Interconnection Issues (J. Teague)

- a. Complaint and Net Metering Processes
  - Since our last meeting, we've had slight improvement on the complaint process, however we are still finding billing issues with third party suppliers. Probably primarily because of their lack of knowledge of net metering process. J. Teague has prepared a memo that S. Hunter is currently reviewing, that will go to GATS administrator to be distributed, so the third party supplier will know what the net metering process is and how it works. It tells them how to access NJCEP website and to access the rules.
- b. Interconnection Agreement Forms
  - Change in level 2 and level 3 interconnection agreement form. Basically it is modification to customer signature section, similar to what we did last March (2011) and distributed the level 1 process form. The level 2 form had minor modifications and was released to EDCs on Monday, with them to respond by the 30<sup>th</sup>. We will distribute that before the next stakeholders meeting.

#### V. Other Topics / New Business

- a. New Business
  - Couple of proceedings and work groups happening at FURK and PJM GATS on net energy metering on the RE side in the context of transmission planning.
  - Petition filed by Solar Industries Association in regards to limits now in place on net metered projects, asking for that to be reevaluated. Board sending comments on that petition to FURK and PJM.
- b. Next RE Committee meeting in Trenton on 5/8/12

**Renewable Energy Committee Meeting****Attendees**

Wednesday, April 18, 2012  
Board of Public Utilities

1:00pm - 3:30pm

<b>Initial</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
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