



Renewable Energy Committee Meeting Notes

March 11, 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 (R. Reisman)

Mr. Reisman called the meeting to order and asked the participants in the room and those on the phone to introduce themselves.

He then read the disclaimer above.

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

- a. Regulatory / Legislation Update
- b. Board Orders and Proceedings
- c. FY2015 Funding Level
- d. Process for developing FY2015 programs and budgets

Ms. Ackerman discussed the CRA for FY2015, noting the intention of issuing a one-year funding level again since a new program administrator is not yet on board. She said Staff expects to issue a straw proposal in March, followed by a 30-day public comment period. She anticipates it will be on the Board's agenda for May, or possibly June. A straw budget for FY2015 may be released at the next RE Committee meeting.

Ms. Ackerman said there have been no indicators from Treasury on the RFP for a new NJCEP program administrator, and noted that existing programs will continue to be offered as the process moves along.

Mr. Hunter said the agenda for the Board's March 19 agenda meeting had not yet been posted. He said the Board, at its February 19 agenda meeting, approved the biopower solicitation and directed the Market Manager to update its June 2013 compliance filing to reflect the solicitation. He added that the

Board approved a rule adoption for some of the prescriptive changes to the Solar Act, including the life of ORECs and SACP levels. Those rules became effective on publication on March 3.

A participant on the phone asked about the status of offshore wind. Mr. Hunter said offshore wind may or may not be on the March agenda, and that interested parties should check the meeting agenda once it is posted. He also indicated that the funding mechanism rule proposal is still under development.

III. Update on the Solar Act; (S. Hunter, C. Garrison)

Mr. Hunter said he and Mr. Jackson circulated a straw proposal outlining a methodology to re-allocate the portion of electricity sales attributable to the exempt BGS providers who had contracts in effect when the Solar Act was signed in July 2012 from the Act's increased RPS requirements. Comments on the straw proposal are due March 28. In addition to the RE listserv, the straw proposal is also being circulated to the GATS distribution list for TPS and BGS providers.

a. Subsection (q);

Mr. Hunter said the Board approved Subsection (q) projects at its January agenda meeting for Round 2 and directed them to submit or resubmit SREC registrations. Mr. Garrison noted that there were projects that had not registered in a timely manner. A recommendation will be made after June 1 for dealing with any available additional capacity.

A participant in the room asked when SRP acceptance letters would be issued; Mr. Hunter said it would take approximately the same amount of time as Round 1. There was also a question about the schedule for submitting milestone forms for the quarter ending March 31, 2014. Mr. Garrison responded that since the subsection q round 2 applicants were required to submit the initial milestone form with their subsection q application, they did not need to provide the March 31st update but will be required to provide subsequent quarterly updates.

Another participant asked when the list of registered projects would be made public. Mr. Garrison indicated it would be after the release of the SRP acceptance letters.

b. Subsection (t);

Mr. Hunter said that Staff anticipates developing rules on the Subsection (t) certification process. Meanwhile, they will continue to take applications under the certification program approved by the Board in January 2013.

c. Subsections (r) & (s)

Mr. Hunter said he does not have a fully fleshed out schedule for Subsection (r) rulemaking; there will be no rulemaking for Subsection (s).

d. Investigating Approaches to Mitigate Solar Volatility

Mr. Hunter mentioned that the BPU has a contract with Rutgers CEEEP to analyze the record developed so far in this proceeding. A public presentation on the preliminary analysis is scheduled for April 1 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Bloustein School.

Mr. Garrison gave a PowerPoint presentation (*Presentation #1*) on installed capacity, pipeline capacity, deactivations and SREC trading prices. He noted that 44.1 MW of capacity was added in February. The majority of the additional capacity reported as installed in February was a result of two large behind the

meter projects and one Subsection (q) Round 1 grid supply project, bringing total capacity to 1,245.5 MW. The pipeline decreased by 38.8 MW due to the movement of several large projects from the pipeline status to the installed status. He also pointed out that behind the meter projects have now surpassed one gigawatt – a significant milestone.

IV. Program Updates (R. Reisman)

- a. Biopower working group update
- b. Energy Storage working group update

Mr. Reisman reiterated Mr. Hunter's earlier comments regarding the approval of the biopower solicitation by the Board at its February 19 agenda meeting and the issuance of the solicitation the following day. He mentioned several key upcoming dates, including the March 13 webinar; the March 20 deadline for responding to the Request for Information survey; and the April 21 deadline for submitting applications.

On energy storage, Mr. Reisman reported that a straw proposal had been issued by Staff on January 28 and that 16 comments from the public had been received during the subsequent 30-day comment period. He added that the straw proposal and public comments would be discussed at a meeting of the Energy Storage Working Group on March 13 at 1:00 pm.

c. Operations Update (T. Gray)

Ms. Gray gave a PowerPoint presentation (*Operations Update 3_11_14*) discussing trends in the number of SRP registrations, acceptance letters, final as-builts and completions, as well as data on the percentages of PPA versus non-PPA projects and capacity.

V. Update on Interconnection Issues (J. Teague)

Mr. Teague said he sent out information and attachments yesterday to the Technical Working Group for its March 19 conference call. He added that comments received from stakeholders on aggregated net metering are under review by the legal staff and will be the subject of a discussion at the March 25 stakeholder meeting. Mr. Hunter indicated that Staff has to develop a new rule proposal because the time for re-adoption is near, and Staff is implementing the law as it is written.

A caller asked if there would be a comparison with other states' interconnection rules. Mr. Hunter said that IREC and the DSIRE database offer that research.

VI. RPS issues (R. Jackson)

Mr. Jackson said he expects to have a preliminary summary report of EY2013 data by the next RE Committee meeting. He said there was a slight uptick in total sales due to late reports from some suppliers. He also noted that 596,143 SRECs were retired in EY2013– 143 above the requirement.

VII. Other Topics / New Business (M. Winka)

Mr. Winka gave a presentation on the Energy Resiliency Bank (ERB). The ERB – which will be jointly administered by the BPU, DEP and the NJ Economic Development Authority – will help critical local government and not-for-profit facilities bridge the “resiliency gap” by funding energy projects that enhance their reliability. He said they are currently developing criteria for evaluations – including technical feasibility, resiliency benefits, financial attractiveness and criticality. He also said the ERB will not fund new solar projects but the addition of energy storage to an existing project would be eligible

for funding. He noted that the Environmental Infrastructure Trust will deal with non-energy projects while the ERB will deal exclusively with energy projects. Mr. Winka said the ERB's goal "is to be cheapest money out there."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm. The next RE Committee meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2014 at 1:00 pm.

Renewable Energy Committee Meeting - Tuesday, March 11, 2014

1:00pm - 3:30pm

Board of Public Utilities - Trenton, NJ

Attendees

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Renewable Energy Committee Meeting - Tuesday, March 11, 2014

1:00pm - 3:30pm

Board of Public Utilities - Trenton, NJ

Attendees

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Board of Public Utilities - Trenton, NJ

Attendees

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