



Renewable Energy Committee Meeting Notes

February 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 (J. Lypse)

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

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

Ms. Ackerman said there is no update on the RFP for a new NJCEP Program Administrator. She said she is pressing Treasury to get information out to bidders.

Ms. Ackerman said the CRA will be used again as a planning document for a 1-year funding level, with a plan for the two remaining years. She noted that what is being learned now from the working groups will help inform the discussion on CRA and the creation of a Staff straw proposal for the FY2015 budget.

She also reported that at the January 29 Board agenda meeting, the Board approved the delegation of budget authority to Staff, enabling Staff to move up to 10% of program budgets within 60 days and 25% within six months from underperforming programs to performing ones.

Mr. Hunter said he circulated the Board Orders on clean energy from the January 29 agenda meeting. These included an Order approving the petition by the EDCs to contract with NERA to perform the auction function of SREC financing programs for two years; and an Order rescinding three applications from Subsection (q) Round One that failed to comply with the directive to submit SRP registrations within two weeks. In discussing the Orders related to Subsection (q) Round Two, Mr. Hunter noted that Round Two was oversubscribed for Energy Years 2015 & 2016. He said the total capacity amounts for both rounds of Subsection (q) are as follows: 73.4 MW approved for Energy Year 2014; 80 MW conditionally approved for Energy Year 2015; and 80 MW conditionally approved for Energy Year 2016.

Mr. Hunter said the biopower solicitation would be on the Board's February 19 agenda.

III. Solar Act Update (S. Hunter)

Mr. Hunter pointed out an error in the January REC meeting notes regarding Subsection (s), noting that no linkage has yet been established between Subsection (s) and the milestone reporting requirements for Subsection (q) projects. The Market Manager has since corrected the error and has reposted the January REC meeting notes.

Mr. Hunter said that Rutgers University's Center for Energy, Economic and Environmental Policy (CEEPP) has contracted with a consultant to prepare a report on mitigating solar market development volatility and what other states and countries are doing on this issue. He said he was looking at a late March/early April timeframe for the public presentation of the report.

Milestone Form (C. Garrison)

Mr. Garrison said the Milestone Form (*Presentation #2*) is related to the proceedings on mitigating solar market development volatility by getting a better handle on the status of all grid supply facilities and all net metered facilities greater than 1 MW in the solar pipeline. He noted that responses provided on this form will provide a lot of good information regarding the timing of projects in the pipeline and reviewed the types of information required on the form. The first round of form submittals will be March 31 for SRP registrations meeting these criteria that have an active SRP Acceptance as of that date.

Mr. Garrison said the SRP Checklist (*Presentation #3*) has been updated to indicate that all new SRP Registrations meeting these criteria must include the form with the registration packet and file it quarterly thereafter. Both the Milestone and Checklist forms will be posted on the NJCEP website by the end of the day. He also noted that language has been added to Page 2 of the Checklist relating to Subsection (q) projects. These forms are located at the following URL address:

<http://www.njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/programs/srec-registration-program/registration-forms>

Mitigating Solar Volatility (C. Garrison) – (Presentation #1)

Mr. Garrison reported that solar installed capacity as of 1/31/14 is 1,201.4 MW, up 17 MW from the previous month. He also presented data on solar project pipeline, deactivations, and SREC trading statistics. The preliminary pipeline was 323.5 MW by the end of January 31, 2014.

There was a brief discussion about the disposition of expired SRECs.

A question on the phone about the transparency of projects in the pipeline and the amount of capacity in each of the EDC financing programs was answered by Mr. Hunter. In the future months, this presentation will also include aggregate information by subsection for the projects in the solar pipeline.

IV. Program Updates (R. Reisman, J. Lupse)

Mr. Reisman referred back to Mr. Hunter's earlier report indicating that the biopower solicitation would be presented to the Board at its February 19 agenda meeting.

Ms. Lupse noted that a straw proposal on the energy storage solicitation had been issued by Staff on January 28, 2014. She said that public comments would be accepted through February 27, 2014 at publiccomments@njcleanenergy.com and that another meeting of the Energy Storage Working Group would be scheduled in March. It has since been confirmed for 1 pm on March 13, 2014, held at CSG's Iselin office.

V. Operations update (J. Lupse)

Ms. Lupse presented this update (*Presentation #4*), discussing data on SRP registration trends, final as-builts, NJ certification numbers and completions.

Mr. Hunter commented positively on the short turnaround times currently exhibited for SRP registration processing.

VI. Interconnection update (J. Teague)

Mr. Teague reported that working groups held a conference call on January 23, 2014. Comments received prior to the call have been summarized and a document will be issued after it has been reviewed and approved. The next regular Net Metering and Interconnection stakeholder meeting will be on March 25 in Trenton at 10 am in the BPU's Multi-purpose room. Additional information and an agenda will follow. He said the working groups may have another conference call prior to the March 25 stakeholder meeting.

In other developments, funds for firefighter training have been submitted to the Division of Fire Safety.

VII. RPS update (R. Jackson)

Mr. Jackson said he received some comments on the chart presented at the last RE Committee meeting about Class 2 RECs, and explained the discrepancy in the numbers reported for Class 2. He said a combination of LSEs using Class 1 RECs and SRECs to satisfy Class 2 requirements, as well as 12 SACP payments and other factors, together accounted for the discrepancy.

He added that Staff met with the legal team on next steps for establishing a Solar Act rulemaking schedule.

VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

The next RE Committee meeting will be held on March 11, 2014 at 1:00 pm.

**Renewable Energy Committee Meeting
Attendees**

Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Board of Public Utilities

1:00pm - 3:30pm

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Renewable Energy Committee Meeting

Attendees

Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Board of Public Utilities

1:00pm - 3:30pm

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Attendees

Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Board of Public Utilities

1:00pm - 3:30pm

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