

# New Jersey's Clean Energy Program Renewable Energy Committee Meeting BPU, Trenton June 14, 2016

Introductions

## **Regulatory Updates**

Marisa noted that the June 29 Board Agenda meeting will include the approval of the fiscal year 2017 (FY17) budgets, program filings and protocols. She noted that the public comment period closes on June 17. There is also an adjustment to the FY16 budget out for public comment and that comment period closes on June 15.

## **FY16 Proposed Budget Revisions**

Staff is proposing numerous changes to the budget to address the re-alignment of the detailed budgets and the transfer of funds to the HVAC program, to the new State Facility Initiative and to the True Grant. Sufficient funds remain in each program from which Staff is proposing to transfer funds from to meet all anticipated program activities through the remainder of the FY. The overall NJCEP budget remains unchanged and the overall rebate budget category is increased by \$1.4 million as compared to the previously approved budget.

## **FY17 Proposed Programs and Budgets**

The AEG team reviewed the proposed changes to the Distributed Energy Resource program (CHP/FC, Biopower, Renewable Electric Storage and Microgrids). Marisa Slaten noted that the collection of funds for CRA FY17 remains approximately the same as last year. The main theme for FY17 is to continue the existing portfolio of programs with some directional changes. Over the course of the year Staff will lead a process to develop a strategic plan with the goal of proposing a multi-year plan by this time next year. Marisa noted that the longer term strategic plan may have significant changes as compared to the current portfolio.

## **Renewable Energy Program Updates**

Mike reviewed the new format for the Solar Installation Report. AEG will provide historical Honeywell reported numbers through 2014, and we are changing the basis of what is defined as "installed" from the QA/QC Selected date to the Permission to Operate ("PTO") date. Based on direction from Staff we will now use PTO date no matter when the application is filed. For example, 172 MW in calendar year 2015 was reported by Honeywell, but if we use PTO data that will be revised to 175 MW. So both the CY15 and CY16 totals will change based on the PTO date.

AEG continues to pursue the option of using the EDC's reported PTO data but it is not encouraging. Even if the utilities were willing to give us information on number of projects and size, the information they provide us will not allow us to tie it back to an individual registration. AEG will continue to pursue this option but we are no longer as confident that it will be helpful.

On the subject of reporting, AEG is working with Staff and stakeholders to get input on what information is really needed going forward. We plan to have an open discussion with the industry and a meeting on the topic is tentatively planned for June 28<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3pm.

Tammy reported that while SREC Registration (“SRP”) volumes continue to be high, AEG is only three weeks out on processing portal applications. Mike noted that finals are currently more important to process than initials, and AEG is now moving resources over to finals and those numbers should ramp up significantly. The goal is to be fully caught up, for both initials and finals, by the end of summer.

### **Updates on the Solar Act**

**Subsection q** – All projects EY15 but one at 362 kWmet the May 31, 2015 deadline and are getting inspected now. Staff will issue a report once installed capacities are reconciled with approved capacities. One project submitted a request for an extension which was denied.

**Subsection r** – Staff is in the process of accepting expressions of interest (“EOIs”) for the interim subsection r process pending the adoption of RPS rule amendments (recommendations expected to go to the Board sometime this summer). Staff received 8 EOIs for projects totaling approximately 80 MW and once the EOIs are deemed complete Staff will issue a docket number so they can be tracked. When the EOI window closes, a summary will be issued which will include the amount of capacity, average system size, etc. Staff will develop a straw proposal towards taking comments on the carrying capacity of aggregate Subsection r projects to be recommended for an application window to the Board once the RPS rule adoption is finalized.

Someone in the room asked what would the principles/guidelines be if Staff receives more capacity in applications than the Board would approve? Marisa noted more information will be provided on the evaluation process but at a minimum will be guided by the requirements in the statute and may consider criteria such as location, impacts on open space, impacts on the EDC etc. that are identified in Subsection r of the Solar Act of 2012.

Is there any requirement under Subsection r to require a project to build within a specific time? There is a requirement that a project approved for designation pursuant to Subsection r build within two years or they lose their eligibility for SRECs.

### **RPS Issues**

Ron reported that the EY15 data is not ready for release yet – 99.1% of the sales have been accounted for and staff are reconciling the balance. Staff anticipate hosting a meeting with GATS, third party electric suppliers and providers toward facilitating full compliance with the EY16 RPS requirements in a more timely manner.

Next Meeting: August 14, 2016

Renewable Energy Committee Attendance List:

In person:

Jim Grevatt	Energy Futures Group
Scott Hunter	NJBPU
Linda Wetzel	Applied Energy Group
Ron Jackson	NJBPU
Rachel Boylan	NJBPU
Mike Ambrosio	Applied Energy Group
Marisa Slaten	NJBPU
Maura Watkins	Applied Energy Group
Mike Winka	NJBPU
Katie O'Rourke	ICF International
Tammy VanBlarcom	Applied Energy Group
Anne Marie McShea	NJBPU
Rob Gibbs	Direct Energy
Peter Toomey	Evolution Markets
Jim McAleer	Solar Electric NJ LLC
Adam Amann	Noble Americas
Zeyd Tabbara	BGC Environmental
Steve Osborne	New Jersey Resources
Erin Hill	NJDEP
Doug Hritz	RCSG
Bryan Rubio	Gabel Associates

By Phone:

Allyson Browne	SRECTrade
James Wise	NJDEP
Tim McLaughlin	Auriga Capital Management
Ron Reisman	RHR Communications
Howard Fleischer	NJSREC.com
Tom Lynch	KDC Solar
Douglas Lachenauer	Conti Group
Sam Gulland	Conti Group
Cyndi Surman	Trinity Solar
Cheri Thomas	Trinity Solar
Tom Weiss	Trinity Solar
Dianne Lennon	Sunnova Energy
Fred DeSanti	MC2 Public Affairs
Steven Gifis	Suntuity
Don Walters	Nexamp
Rhodora Cayanan	SunPower
Sam Weinstein	Princeton Public Affairs

Annika Colston	PV Navigator
Steven Franckhauser	HBD Energy Advisors
Ian McGowan	DTE Energy Trading
Ryan Hoag	Dynamic Energy Solutions