



Renewable Energy Committee Meeting Notes

April 15, 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. Lupse)

Ms. Lupse called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and asked the participants in the room and those on the phone to introduce themselves. Mr. Hunter then read the disclaimer above.

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

a. Regulatory / Legislation Update

Mr. Hunter reported that the Board approved the following items at its March agenda meeting:

- Denial of a request to extend a PSA;
- Denial of a Subsection (q) application from Round 1;
- Denial of a motion for reconsideration for a Subsection (t) application;
- Denial of a petition by Fisherman's Energy for an offshore wind farm.

The April agenda has not yet been posted.

b. Board Orders and Proceedings - Process for developing FY15 programs and budgets

Mr. Ambrosio said Staff is finalizing a straw proposal for FY15 funding levels; the plan is to have the straw proposal and a notice of public hearing go out on April 28. He said Staff is trying to schedule the public hearing for end of May. Once funding levels are set, program managers will submit proposed compliance filings. The proposed budget for RE programs is \$9.6 million, with \$9.4 million for SRP administration and REIP incentives.

c. Discussion of NJCEP Program Administrator RFP / Transition Status

Mr. Ambrosio said there is no news to report. He noted that Ms. Ackerman is working with Honeywell, TRC and AEG on contract extensions for submittal to the Board in June.

III. Update on the Solar Act (S. Hunter)

a. Subsection (q)

Mr. Hunter said that draft SRP registration acceptance letters for subsection q projects are being finalized, and that Staff will be working with the Market Manager (MM) to get the letters out the week after the RE meeting.

b. Subsection (t)

Mr. Hunter noted that this subsection has a rolling application process. He said Staff will have to take up rulemaking for this subsection -- but doesn't have the exact schedule yet -- and will need to coordinate it with other Solar Act rulemaking requirements. He also said Staff is finalizing the requirements on what paperwork they will need to demonstrate that a solar facility has met all DEP requirements and is thus eligible for full certification. Mr. Hunter reported that the BPU has received 12 applications for about 74 MW, which are posted on the Solar Act page of the NJCEP website. The pdf file is dated as 3/13/14 and covers project status as of 3/10/14.

c. Subsections (r) & (s)

Subsection (s): Mr. Hunter said Staff has issued a second request for comments on developing additional application criteria and milestone reporting requirements. Staff is taking comments on a second straw proposal (comments are due May 15, 2014) and will be discussing them at the May REC stakeholder meeting; the plan is to develop a presentation to the Board for its June agenda meeting.

Subsection (r): Mr. Hunter said Staff will coordinate this rulemaking with other rulemaking proceedings, including but not limited to the aggregate net metering rules.

d. Investigating Approaches to Mitigate Solar Development Volatility (C. Garrison)

Mr. Hunter said Staff has issued a consultant's report that looked at the record established to date in this proceeding. The consultants issued their draft report on March 26, and public comments were heard at a meeting at The Bloustein School on April 1. Written comments are due April 11. Mr. Hunter said the Staff is working toward meeting the July 24 deadline that the Legislature gave the Board.

Mr. Garrison gave Presentation #1. He said preliminary installed capacity as of 3/31/14 is 1,267.1 MW, an increase of 21.6 MW from February. The Pipeline presently has 224.8 MW which does not include the SRP Registration submittals for 15 subsection q (round 2) projects, totaling 118.2 MW that have been received, but not yet acted upon. Mr. Garrison also provided data on deactivations, PPA vs. non-PPA percentages and high and low scenarios for installed capacity and SREC pricing.

IV. Program Updates

a. Discussion on posting system owner information (C. Garrison)

Mr. Garrison gave Presentation #2 on system ownership data, speaking about issues relating to identifying system owners and their proper addresses. The MM will provide the NJ Cert # only to the party listed as the system owner. The MM is now proposing to publish a list with information on system owners with the intent of allowing requesters to see where the NJ Cert # was sent and contact that party. The MM is requesting public comments by May 15, 2014 on whether this information should be published.

b. Biopower working group update (R. Reisman)

Mr. Reisman reported that the submittal period for applications to the FY14 Sustainable Biopower Competitive Solicitation ends on April 21. He noted that Board Staff and the MM conducted a webinar

for biopower stakeholders on March 13 to review paperwork requirements and respond to questions about the program. He also reviewed the results of the Request for Information/Survey conducted earlier this year.

c. Energy Storage working group update (J. Lupton)

Ms. Lupton said the MM was working on a revised straw proposal for a competitive solicitation after considering the public comments received on the initial straw proposal and the discussion that took place at the March 13 working group meeting. She said the solicitation will likely be launched in FY15. She also reviewed the results of the RFI/Survey for energy storage.

d. Operations Update (J. Lupton)

Ms. Lupton gave Presentation #3, which featured data on REIP incentive payments; SRP registrations, acceptance letters, final as-builts, completions and PPA vs. non-PPA ratios. Ms. Lupton also highlighted program changes in the SRP, including streamlining the current SRP Final As Built forms and processes to reduce the amount of paperwork required. Jeremiah Diaz elaborated on revised Final as Built Technical Worksheet form. He said cells on the new forms will be writeable and will perform automatic calculations where needed and some of the backup documents have been eliminated and data from those has been incorporated into this revised Technical Worksheet.

V. Update on Interconnection Issues (J. Teague)

a. Net Metering & Interconnection Stakeholders Proceedings

Mr. Teague reported that the Technical Working Group held a conference call on March 19. He also said that a March 25 stakeholder meeting covered aggregated net metering issues, with comments submitted by stakeholders reviewed and discussed by Rachel Boylan. Also at that meeting, State Fire Marshall Bill Kramer discussed the process of DCA implementing a practice to place signs on buildings with solar to inform firefighters. Also discussed at the meeting were third-party supplier issues; specifically, that EDCs were not notifying third-party suppliers about net metered customers. JCP&L and PSE&G will implement changes to this practice in May, although ACE won't be ready until January 2015.

VI. Other Topics / New Business

a. Energy Resiliency Bank update

Mr. Ambrosio said the intent is to have this program up and running by June. Job announcements have been posted for an Executive Director and other positions.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Friday, May 16, 2014. Please note that this was subsequently changed to May 13, 2014.

REC Meeting
April 15, 2014

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