



Renewable Energy Committee Meeting Notes
May 12, 2016
NJBPU, 44 S. Clinton Avenue, 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

Mike Ambrosio asked the participants in the room and those on the phone to introduce themselves.

II. Regulatory Update (Marisa Slaten - NJBPU)

Marisa stated that the Board approved the results of the third round of the SREC financing program offered by EDCs and that further details will be discussed in the Navigant presentation. The public hearing on the CRA scheduled for May 16 has been cancelled and a new date will be announced soon. Marisa read the disclaimer above.

III. Transition Update (Mike Ambrosio – AEG)

Mike thanked the industry for their patience as AEG works through some issues. We have completed review of all paper applications that were transferred from Honeywell this week. All processing efforts will now be shifted to portal projects and final registrations and should increase steadily. The goal is get through the backlog by June. AEG will hold regular calls with the industry to get feedback with an open dialog. The first call was received favorably and the second call will be May 24th.

Regarding monthly reporting, AEG is resolving several issues – the first involving watts/kilowatts which has been corrected in the portal. A bigger issue is one that

warrants discussion – in the past what the Market Manager reported was registrations in process in a period without any tie to when it was actually issued a PTO. We have been asked to now report on installations in a month tied to the PTO. With the backlog, any reporting on this new metric would not be accurate. We have started discussions with the EDCS to see if we can get that information from the utilities. If each can report to us how many PTOs they issued the reports will be more accurate than what has been done in the past. Another workaround Scott Hunter suggested is to have each developer upload the PTOs in advance of the final paperwork submission.

AEG will schedule a brainstorming session on reporting in order to determine what reporting is really needed. Two reports that AEG is focusing on are the monthly installation report and the weighted average pricing report. Are there other critical reports? The pipeline report, once we catch up on the backlog, will be easier to generate on a timely basis.

IV. Renewable Energy Program Updates

Tammy VanBlarcom and Maura Watkins presented the solar market update which had been distributed prior to the meeting to the listserv. It was noted that there is an upcoming Renewable Electric Storage stakeholder meeting at RU LESS on June 3 to discuss preliminary research results.

V. EDC Solicitation (Jim Peterson, Navigant Consulting)

Navigant is the solicitation manager for the EDC's SREC II program. Results of Round 3 were approved by the Board on April 27. For Round 4, the RFP was released on May 4 and bids are due on July 8. The intention of the solicitation is to assure a secure revenue stream competitive bidders over a ten-year term. A consolidated bid application has been developed to make the process easier. Please refer to the website for the latest information: www.njsolarprogram.navigant.com

VI. Updates on the Solar Act

- a. Subsection q – Maura reported that there are (19) projects that have been installed and (15) projects in the pipeline. The pipeline projects represent approximately 98 MW. There is (1) EY2014 project and (7) EY2015 projects in the pipeline, representing approximately 48 MW that are expected to be installed by May 31, 2016.
- b. Subsection r – Marisa noted that the official comment period for the proposed amendments to the RPS rules closed on May 6 so any input received today will not be included in the upcoming recommendation. Staff anticipates making a recommendation at the May Board Agenda meeting to implement subsection r on an interim basis as closely as possible to what was proposed in the rule amendments but to not accept applications until the rule is fully adopted. There will be a 45-day Expression of Interest (EOI) period from June 1 through July 15 for the developer to submit the EOI using a standard form that will be developed for applicants to submit to seek designation for the upcoming Energy Year. This is a recommendation for an interim process until the rules are fully adopted. On 5/25 the recommendation for this interim process is scheduled to go before the Board for review and approval.

- c. The tentative timeframe for the rules to be adopted by the Board is in the August/September timeframe. The first application window would potentially open on December 1. Construction will need to be completed within two years. If you do not commence commercial operations within 2 years, the project will not be eligible for SRECs. Subsection t – Maura reported that there are (5) projects installed and (5) projects in the SRP pipeline (an additional 7 projects received conditional certification but have yet to register). The pipeline projects represent approximately 44 MW.
- d. Subsection s – Maura reported that there are (4) projects installed and (4) projects in the SRP pipeline. The pipeline projects represent approximately 36 MW. All expect to have the systems installed by the end of the year.

IV. Interconnection Issues (John Teague)

John reported that Staff has compiled a log to track customers submitting complaints against third party owners back to 2015. There were 23 complaints and four issues involving installers. Staff will continue to update the list in order to identify recurring issues.

ACE recently held a webinar related to distributed energy resources, covering green power connection process and an update on the sunrise report. ACE also has a new customer usage module which started on April 29th enabling customers and installers/contractors to access certain information in order to help develop solar systems.

V. RPS Issues (Ron Jackson)

- a. RPS Rulemaking – see the RPS rule proposal published in the New Jersey Register on March 7 with a 60 day public comment period that ended May 6.
- b. RPS EY15 Compliance Update – Ron is still reviewing the compliance report data and cannot report anything publically
- c. Out of State MSW Class II REC Update – Eight of the State Resource Recovery Facilities were required to submit a new environmental compliance determination. Four of the eight submitted the environmental compliance determination and four did not. They will be re-certified at the beginning of EY17. This information is now public.
- d. 15-year qualification life for solar systems – Ron has been working PJM/GATS to identify projects installed in the 2000-2001 timeframe which no longer can be counted as solar RECs. A dozen letters identifying that these are now Class 1 RECs have been sent. This notification process will be an ongoing process at the end of each energy year. Scott noted the bulk of the systems started coming online in 2004.

VII. Other Topics/New Business

The next meeting is scheduled for June 14 in Trenton.

Renewable Energy Committee Attendance List

In Person:

Wayne Wittman	AF Mensah
Michael Ambrosio	Applied Energy Group
Maura Watkins	Applied Energy Group
Tammy VanBlarcom	Applied Energy Group
Steve Kim	Arcor
Mustafa Kaya	Arcor
Scott Lewis	Green Energy Partners
Tom Lynch	KDC Solar
Jim Peterson	Navigant Consulting
Joe Carpenter	NJ DEP
Erin Hill	NJ DEP BES
Michael Winka	NJBPU
Phillip Lloyd	NJBPU
Mark Beyer	NJBPU
Ronald Jackson	NJBPU
Scott Hunter	NJBPU
Marisa Slaten	NJBPU
Laura Dunn	Noble Americas Gas & Power
Walt Sparrow-Hood	PSE&G
Sarah Steindel	Rate Counsel
Maura Caroselli	Rate Counsel
Doug Hritz	RCSG
George Wittelan	Solar City
Jim McAleer	Solar Electric NJ LLC
Gary Fournier	Sustainable Jersey

By Phone:

Geri Kantor	Ameresco
Joshua Baribeau	Ameresco
Keshika Vasudevan	Dynamic Energy
Don Walters	Nexamp
Amy Hanson	NJ Conservation Foundation
James Wise	NJDEP
Howard Fleischer	NJSREC.com
James Maddonni	Pennoni
Fay Muhammad	PSE&G
Annika Colston	PV Navigator
Clara Schoph	SoCore Energy
Allyson Umberger Browne	SRECTrade, Inc.