



Renewable Energy Committee Meeting Notes
October 14, 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 read the disclaimer above.

II. OCE Updates (S. Hunter, M. Ambrosio, S. Jones)

Mr. Hunter said the only significant Clean Energy agenda item at the Board's September 30 meeting was the Board's approval of the FY2015 Compliance Filings. He reported that the forthcoming "true-up" will show that the State appropriated \$58 million plus carryover from the NJCEP budget. He said Staff is working internally on a memo which should come out shortly seeking public comment. He noted that Staff was targeting the December agenda meeting for presentation to the Board.

Mr. Hunter said that while the agenda has not yet been posted for the October 22 Board meeting, he anticipated that it would include both the energy storage and biopower solicitations, and the additional application criteria and milestone reporting requirements for the Solar Act's Subsection (s).

Ms. Jones reported by phone that Staff is working on the RFP for a new NJCEP program administrator and hopes to have it out by the end of this year.

Mr. Ambrosio said that a working group will be assembled to thoroughly review all NJCEP programs and processes and make recommendations for changes. He said he expects the working group to begin its review by the end of October and issue its recommendations by March of 2015. Any changes will impact FY2016 programs.

III. Solar Act Update (S. Hunter)

Mr. Hunter reported that Staff is still monitoring the need for additional application rounds for Subsection (q), although there currently does not appear to be such a need. He noted that Energy Years 2014 and 2015 are both 99% full, with conditional approvals for EY2016 standing at 90%.

He said that three Subsection (t) applications are currently being reviewed by DEP. He added that a fourth applicant has expressed an interest in increasing system size, and has been advised to go through the same process as the PSE&G applications that were approved in August.

Mr. Hunter said Staff is currently working on a draft rulemaking for Subsections (t) and (r), with draft concepts scheduled to be presented at the November 13 RE Committee meeting.

He also noted that additional application criteria and milestone reporting requirements for deferred Subchapter (s) applications would either be on the Board's October or, more likely, November agenda.

IV. Energy Resilience Bank Update (T. Walker)

Mr. Walker said the Bank's documents have now been approved by both the BPU and EDA Boards. He added that the program is set to start October 20 and online applications will be loaded to the website soon. Water and wastewater treatment plants are the first sector, or tier, to be targeted, with \$65 million dedicated to those facilities. The second tier targeted will be hospitals, long term care facilities, schools and transit facilities. He said the plan is to hold open stakeholder meetings for the second tier in late November or early December, with approval targeted for January. He added that the percentages of grants, loans and principal forgiveness may vary from tier to tier.

A caller brought up the point about hospitals wishing to invest in medical equipment rather than energy resilience. Mr. Walker said ERB officials would be meeting with hospital and long term care associations to address this and other points.

V. Program Updates

a. Solar Market (C. Garrison)

(Presentation 1) Mr. Garrison said preliminary installed solar capacity as of September 30 is 1,354 MW, with approximately 9.3 MW installed in September. He said New Jersey is now at 106% of its 2013 year-to-date total. He also pointed to a decrease of 33% quarter-to-quarter, saying this is consistent with the historical trend in NJ and nationally. Mr. Garrison's report also featured a breakdown of Behind-The-Meter vs. Grid Supply projects in the pipeline; the breakdown of Grid Supply projects by Solar Act subsection; a new slide on the history of capacity additions by month and interconnection type; the percentage of third party ownership (74% of installed capacity and 79% of pipeline); capacity added by quarter; low and high scenarios for installed capacity; a new report on milestone summary by project, capacity and milestone description; and SREC trading statistics and prices for EY2014.

b. Biopower (R. Reisman)

Mr. Reisman reiterated Mr. Hunter's earlier statement that the FY2015 Sustainable Biopower Incentive is expected to be on the Board's October 22 agenda.

c. Renewable Electric Storage (J. Lypse)

Ms. Lypse also reiterated Mr. Hunter's earlier statement that the FY2015 Renewable Electric Storage Incentive is expected to be on the Board's October 22 agenda.

d. Operations update (T. Gray)

(Presentation 2) Ms. Gray said the timelines for issuing SRP Acceptance Letters have been reduced from 8-9 weeks in September to 5-6 weeks in mid-October thanks to the extra effort by the team. She said we will continue to monitor timelines and volumes, and will evaluate staffing levels accordingly. Weekly updates on timelines will be posted on the NJCEP website.

Ms. Gray reported that 1,167 registrations were received in September. An additional 427 registrations were received through October 10. SRP Acceptance letters for September stand at 886 for a total of 30.3 MW. An additional 1,105 acceptance letters were issued through October 13 thanks to hard work by the Market Manager team. She also reported data on Final As-Builts and completions.

Ms. Gray noted that recommended program changes for paperwork reduction and process streamlining were included in the Compliance Filing approved by the Board on September 30 and will be implemented December 1. She said the Market Manager team will conduct installer training to familiarize the solar community with these changes prior to implementation.

She reported that no comments were received on the proposed change to eliminate contract addenda as a way to make registrations compliant. This change will become effective December 1.

VI. Interconnection Update (J. Teague)

Mr. Teague said the Net Metering and Interconnection stakeholder meeting on October 7 included a full discussion of the EDCs' mixed generation proposal. Other discussion items included:

- Closed circuits in the EDCs' territories.
- EDCs posting maps on their websites
- Possible changes to interconnection agreement forms
- Atlantic City Electric's participation in the Sunrise program
- EDCs agreeing to change the voltage band from plus/minus 4% to plus/minus 5%.

VII. RPS Update (R. Jackson)

Mr. Jackson said proposed rule adoptions for prescriptive changes are still at the Governor's office. He noted that Class 1 and Class 2 reports were due October 1, with most of them having come in already. He said the final sales number for Energy Year 2014 is 76,510,311 MWh, which means a requirement of 1,568,461 SRECs – 2.05% of the MWh number. He added that Third Party Suppliers and BGS auction winners have until December 1 to report their numbers.

VIII. Utility Financing Programs

a. EDC SREC Financing (T. Donadio, JCP&L)

Mr. Donadio reported that bids from program administrators were reviewed; a vendor was selected; and a draft Purchase Order was issued to the vendor. He added that terms and conditions are being negotiated, with the hope of having a contract finalized in the next two weeks. He said the Solicitation should take place 45 days after the contract is finalized.

b. PSE&G Solar Loan III Update (T. Repetti, PSE&G)

(Presentation 3) Mr. Repetti said the program is now open for business, with the authorization to support 97.5 MW of capacity in PSE&G's service area over the next few years. He said the program provides term loans to qualified C&I and Residential customers. Loans are repaid through SRECs with a guaranteed floor price.

He said a Solicitation is coming up in the next few weeks for 31.6 MW of capacity in five program segments (residential, small and large non-residential, landfill, and residential aggregated). The window for applications will be open November 3-14, with applicants notified by December 31. He added that Solicitation #6 is tentatively scheduled for February 2015, with future solicitations every other month. He said a webinar on the program is scheduled for October 21.

IX. Other Topics / New Business (J. Lupse)

There being no further business, Ms. Lupse adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13.

Renewable Energy Committee Meeting**Attendees**

October 14, 2014

1:00pm - 3:30pm

Board of Public Utilities

Initial	Name	Company	Phone	E-mail
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REC Meeting

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