



Biopower Technical Working Group Meeting Notes

June 26, 2014

Conservation Services Group - Iselin, NJ

I. Call to Order (Ron Reisman)

Mr. Reisman called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and asked the participants in the room and those on the phone to introduce themselves. A list of attendees is attached.

II. Introduction (Scott Hunter)

Mr. Hunter discussed the state's objectives regarding the development of biopower resources and how they related to the incentive program offered by the NJCEP. Experience from the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY2014) competitive biopower solicitation and the Board of Public Utilities' (Board) recent approval of funding for a FY2015 competitive solicitation was discussed as context for the public stakeholder meeting.

III. NJCEP Biopower Status Report (Charlie Garrison)

Mr. Garrison provided an overview of past program activity, noting that 22 biopower projects totaling 31,155 kW of capacity have been installed, with six projects totaling 4,060 kW of capacity in the pipeline.

IV. Facilitated Discussion on Key Topics for the FY2015 Sustainable Biopower Competitive Solicitation (All)

a. Net metering and interconnection

The FY2014 competitive solicitation required that proposed projects be net metered and interconnected using the Board's rules at N.J.A.C 14:8-5. Participants discussed the merits of modifying the FY2014 solicitation requirement for a proposed project to be net metered and interconnected for the FY2015 Sustainable Biopower solicitation to allow for the eligibility of "stand alone" (i.e., not net metered and not grid supply) systems that would meet the program's energy and environmental goals while providing resilient power to public and critical facilities.

b. EPC and feedstock contracts for public and private entities

The FY2014 competitive solicitation required executed EPC and feedstock contracts. Participants discussed the merits of modifying the requirements for including executed EPC and feedstock contracts in the initial application, noting the potential risks involved in making commitments to projects are speculative without fully thought out plans for equipment installation or securing control of a viable feedstock. Mr. Hunter suggested that executed contracts be made an evaluation criterion rather than a requirement, with applications that include an executed EPC contract given priority over those that don't, and applicants being given the option of including a plan for "demonstrating feedstock control" in lieu of submitting a feedstock contract.

c. System Efficiency

The FY2014 solicitation contained a minimum efficiency requirement of 65% consistent with the standards used in the NJCEP C&I CHP program. Several stakeholders suggested that the 65% minimum efficiency requirement for CHP systems be reduced or eliminated in the FY2015 solicitation due to the fact that biogas has a lower Btu value than natural gas and thus should not be held to the same standard that exists in the commercial/industrial CHP program. Mr. Hunter recommended that system efficiency be an evaluation criterion in the Solicitation rather than a requirement.

d. Other topics suggested by participants

A participant asked whether CHP systems that are fueled by a combination of biogas and natural gas would be eligible for the Solicitation. Mr. Hunter said that such systems should apply for incentives through the commercial/industrial CHP program.

A participant asked if equipment designed to improve the performance of existing CHP systems by removing contaminants such as siloxanes from biogas would be eligible for incentives under the Solicitation. Mr. Hunter indicated that such equipment would be eligible.

V. New Jersey Energy Resiliency Bank (Scott Hunter)

Mr. Hunter said that a stakeholder meeting on the New Jersey Energy Resiliency Bank would be held during the week of either July 7 or July 14, and recommended to the participants that they attend.

VI. Discuss Timing Of Revised Straw Proposal And Comment Period (Scott Hunter)

Mr. Hunter said the comments expressed by stakeholders at the meeting would assist Staff in developing a straw proposal on proposed modifications to the FY2015 Solicitation. He said the straw proposal would be released shortly and will be followed by a 30-day public comment period.

VII. Other Topics / New Business

There being no further business to bring before the working group, Mr. Reisman adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.

**BIOPOWER WORKING GROUP
MEETING
Sign In Sheet
Thursday, June 26, 2014**

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