

## **Office of Energy Resources/Distributed Generation Contracts Board - Public Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 27, 2013 9:30 - 11:00 A.M**

### **RI Department of Administration 2nd Floor - Conference Room A**

**Attendees:** Chris Kearns, Ken Payne, Hannah Morini, Christine Malecki West, Sam Bradner, Seth Handy, Anthony Paolantonio, Barry Wenskowicz

The meeting started at 9:30 a.m.

Ken Payne welcomed the stakeholders to this meeting to discuss the possible megawatt allocation scenarios for the 2014 DG Program.

#### **Office of Energy Resources - Presentation**

Chris Kearns said that this presentation is a follow up to the presentation that the OER provided to stakeholders at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, about the potential megawatt capacity for the 2014 program.

Chris mentioned one of the challenges is that the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final enrollment is currently being completed by National Grid with contracts being signed, and the Board will likely make a filing with tentative megawatt allocation scenarios to the PUC. The scenario being used is 12.5 megawatts available for the 2014 program.

There could be additional megawatts made available in 2014. This will be dependent on if any of the projects awarded contracts in 2012 and 2013 fail to be operational by their contract deadlines.

The presentation can be viewed with the attached meeting minutes.

#### **Public Comments**

Seth Handy asked why the megawatt capacity was being reduced from 4.5 to 3.0 megawatts in 2014?

Chris explained that the program has a limited megawatt capacity, and that the program is also adding small scale hydropower to the 2014 program. Chris also said that the OER weighed the results of the first 3 years of the program and said that as today, there have been only two 1.5 megawatt wind turbine contracts signed through the first several enrollments since December 2011.

Sam Bradner asked about the megawatt rollover rule and the annual target goal. Could OER provide further detail on this?

Chris said that establishing an annual target, instead of a per enrollment target provides flexibility with the program during the course of the program year for National Grid to contract with the most cost effective projects. The program encountered problems with this enrollment rule in 2013. Chris again said that this annual target process was used for the 2011 and 2012 programs.

The rollover rule was discussed at length during the development of the 2013 program and wanted to have that process continued through the first two enrollments in 2014. The technologies eligible (wind, solar, anaerobic, hydro) have different permitting and local city/town approval timelines, and the program wanted to account for that.

Barry Wenskowicz asked if the large solar allocation could be raised for each enrollment in 2014, what if there are large projects available, beyond the available capacity size?

Chris mentioned that the OER is recommending to the Board an allocation that can achieve the objectives of the DG program, and award a large number of multiple scale renewable energy projects, instead of just 1 or 2 projects for the entire year.

The program has a limited number of megawatts in 2014, and needs to do its best to allocate a certain percentage of that capacity to support both small and large DG projects each year. This was a point made in the amendments by the General Assembly to the DG law this past legislative session, by reducing the eligible renewable energy system sizes from 5 to 3 megawatts.

Ken Payne announced that the next DG Board meeting will be on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Department of Administration where the Board is anticipated to vote on both the ceiling prices and megawatt allocation plan. Sustainable Energy Advantage and the OER will give final presentations to the Board at that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.