

Distributed Generation Board Meeting
National Grid Tariff Discussion/Overview

October 14, 2014, 3:30 – 5:30pm

Department of Administration, Conference Room B

1. The meeting opened at 3:35pm.
2. Introductions around the room
3. Opening remarks from Marion Gold, Commissioner of the Office of Energy Resources.
4. National Grid presentation
 - a. Copies of the presentation will be available after the meeting via an email from Chris Kearns (OER) and from a posting on the Secretary of State's website
 - b. Presentation overview given by Ian Springsteel
 - i. New program highlights include: Promotion of distributed generation across the state, quadrupling the size of the contracts program, a simpler and easier application process, better integration with net metering for customers with on-site load, inclusion of residential customers.
 - c. Program Specific overview given by Corrinne
 - i. Question: All nameplate references are in DC.
 - d. Interconnection process overview given by Tim Rowan
 - e. Tariff structure and features overview given by Jeanne (?)
 - f. Special circumstances presentation given by Ian Springsteel.
5. Public Comment/Question Period:
 - a. Rich from Sagestones: Is the non-residential term 20 years? And can you have more than one project on the same parcel if there are two different owners?
 1. The DG Board has contracted with SEA to develop the ceiling prices for the DG Program. SEA is developing prices for 15 and 20 year tariffs for residential customers. For non-residential, the tariff length is 20 years.
 2. The project depends on whether it is the same developer on adjacent land. If it's separate developers and/or owners, it is permissible.
 - b. How will the ceiling prices be determined?
 1. SEA is using the CREST model, same as the last years' process with the PUC.
 - c. A question to get more granular on segmentation: If the same technology is used on the same or contiguous lots, can they participate in the program and be separately net metered/receive separate PBI?
 1. Yes. But the program is very project-specific.
 - d. Will adjacent projects share the same interconnection with separate meters? Or separate interconnections.
 1. It would depend on the exact configuration of the projects and their collective size. Any developer in this situation should apply for interconnection for both at the same time because after one moves through, the answer may change (depending on what else has come on line in that area). Also, both project will need separate meters.

- e. Suppose there are two large projects on adjacent land, and one is net metering and the other participates in this program. If the circuit could handle it, do they need two interconnections?
 - 1. This is what the impact study will tell us. It really depends on many factors on the grid.
- f. Mike from ISM Solar: Is there new terminology for the impact studies? Or are there additional studies needed in this new program?
 - 1. An impact study is different from the feasibility studies required in the standard contracts program.
 - 2. Since RI's solar market is currently relatively unsaturated, during the initial years, large systems might be able to flow through the expedited process. But in later years, those projects might need a more thorough study to assess their impact on the grid.
- g. Anthony from E2Sol: Zonal incentive for non-residential programs – can residential customers participate in the zonal incentive program?
 - 1. Currently, while the DG program will include special zonal incentives, National Grid isn't proposing any zonal incentives with the program for 2015. There are several reasons for this, including the timeline to get the program launched. Further, National Grid is working with OER on a solar program in Tiverton and Little Compton that will pilot the effect of zonal incentives. This pilot will inform the DG locational incentives that Grid will plan to offer.
- h. Seth Handy: How can stakeholders access the presentation that National Grid gave today?
 - 1. The presentation will be electronically sent to the stakeholders and on the Secretary of State's website
- i. Russ Newman, formerly RGS – Currently unaffiliated. Can the project owner sell their project if they own the COE?
 - 1. The fiscal sale happens outside of National Grid. But the owner won't need to go through the process all over again. They will just file for the transfer of COE with the new information with National Grid. It should be a simple process, and National Grid will not create any unreasonable delays in the transfer.
- j. Russ Newman: Is the payment the same schedule as the current DG program?
 - 1. Yes, quarterly after operation.
- k. Frank: Impact studies are approximately \$10,000. Does that remain the same?
 - 1. There are a few different studies in the interconnection tariff. The impact study will often identify the big picture issues, and will cost no more than the statutorily mandated limit of \$10,000. However, larger projects may need to move from an impact study to a more detailed evaluation study to assess issues that the impact study cannot detect. This could add time and additional charge to the project because of the increase in scope. The original impact study cost is still at statute: \$10,000.
- l. Bruce: Relative to targets in each year – how will that be broken up by class?

1. That will be a process that will be discussed at the end of October. A strawman will be distributed by the DG Board by the end of the month. They take into account things like market participation in the past, where greatest demand is, etc.
 2. There will be an allocation within the categories for each. The only exception is that the law requires at least 3 MW for the small-scale residential program.
- m. Anthony from E2Sol: Residential Program: There's a 2-week window for applicants to provide their application. Is the two-week window dictated by law or could it be expanded? Also, for segmentation, what is the significance of the 24 months period for filing when you have potentially multiple applicants applying?
1. For commercial programs, the 2-week period is required by law.
 2. For residential, it will be open at all times. It'll be open enrollment.
- n. Seth Handy: Greatly appreciate the simplicity of the program in relation to the contract program. There are details that aren't in there that were in contracts. But the simplicity is appreciated.
- o. Seth Handy: Is net metering credit handled the same way in this program as it is in the net metering program?
1. There's a difference. In net metering, "credits" are what you are paid for excess generation. Here, the "credit" is going to be paid for the on-site or displaced usage of the generation. There is no more 'credit' for excess generation.
 2. There's no roll-over of credits. The excess is compensated through the PBI.
- p. Peter from Hydropower company: What are acceptable forms of site control?
1. Lease, Ownership, unconditional options. Letter of intent is acceptable, but National Grid would require more before they would award the certificate.
- q. ISO New England study – are RI developers exempt below 5mw? What is the timing of this with the impact study?
1. No, they are not. ISO New England has new requirements. This will all be outlined in the impact study guidance.
 2. The timing is not inclusive with the impact study required. National Grid does not have any control over the ISO process.
- r. Seth Handy: Are deadlines subject to extension?
1. There are extensions allowed that can be elected by the applicant.
 2. First 6 months has no charge. The second 6 months will have a charge.
 3. You have to opt to take the extension. There are no automatic extensions.
- s. Frank: Currently there are 18 months. The new program has 24 months. Non-conditional 6 month extension that can be requested?
1. Yes. This program is set up for success. From the pilot phase, the board and National Grid learned that they should allow for a longer time frame for building projects.
- t. Anthony E2Sol: There is a provision that National Grid can cancel if the project overproduces. How do we control this with changes in climate/sunlight?

1. Trigger is consistency. If there are small spikes or a few irregularities, that's fine. But the concern is for projects that expand beyond the size they were awarded the ceiling price for.
 2. If projects are consistently over-producing, National Grid will want to know the reason why. The licensed engineer that developers use should have been able to accurately describe your system's output when it was being designed.
- u. Chris Kearns: All renewable energy businesses will need a Renewable Energy Professional Certificate to apply for programs and operate in the state.
 - v. Deadline for comments on the draft tariff is Monday, October 20, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.