

DISTRIBUTED GENERATION BOARD MEETING

September 22, 2014

4:00 – 5:30pm

Conference Room A

RI Department of Administration

1 Capitol Hill Road

Providence, RI

Board Members Present: Charity Pennock, Chris Kearns, Christine Maliki-West, Hannah Morini, Ken Payne, Marion Gold, Sam Bradner, Sheila Dormody.

Attendees: Corinne DiDormenico, Shauna Beland, Danny Musher, Julian Dash, Mark Depasquale, Mike Lucini, Palmer Moore, Peter Aranha, Peter Bay, Seth Handy, Shauna Beland, Sue AnderBois, Tim Faulkner

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Chairman Payne.

Consideration of the September 10th Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Pennock motioned to adopt the minutes from the September board meeting and was seconded by Ms. Dormody. After no formal discussion, the board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes.

Old Business:

Update on Consultant Ceiling Prices and New Solar Licensing Application

Mr. Kearns provided a brief update in the status of the consultant selected for the 2015 ceiling price services and the implementation of the new solar licensing application. Sustainable Energy Advantage should begin their outreach and ceiling price development process over the next week and the Department of Labor should have the new solar licensing application completed and renewable energy business ready to begin registering by the end of the month.

New Business

Updated Timeline and Responsibilities between September and December

Mr. Kearns went over the latest timeline in the programs development between now and early December. Mr. Kearns indicated that the primary activities over the next month and a half will be around the 1st draft of the 2015 ceiling prices and the drafted tariff documents prepared by National Grid.

National Grid - Tariff Background Presentation

Ian Springsteel from National Grid provided an overview on the tentative REG tariff document process.

Questions/Comments by the Board Members

Ms. Pennock: Going back to impact study, can you describe what additional information you get compared with the feasibility study?

Mr. Springsteel: Feasibility looks at size of project and say – you need this kind of interconnection/transformer. Impact will do a more detailed anti-islanding analysis, and be able to know all the characteristics of their interconnection, instead of being surprised later.

Mr. Ferguson: In the net metering arrangement, is the electricity produced actually used by the customer?

Mr. Springsteel: The units would be connected and metered in parallel. We're anticipating that the electrons will flow to the customer, but through the accounting meter (in addition to the generation meter).

Ms. Gold: If Grid was going to put in a new system for a new subdivision, could that system be designed so that it would be easier to interconnect?

Mr. Springsteel: It could. Developments are being made, but the pace of turnover is fairly slow.

Ms. Gold: Regarding storage, how would this system work?

Mr. Springsteel: Lot's of interesting areas for technical corrections. For right now, storage is not part of the bill, but not really sure how that would play out.

Ms. Gold: What if you put in time of use rates in the future, the people locked into the tariffs wouldn't be able to use that?

Christine: What if in 10 years the situation is different, and there's an incentive for people to get out of the tariff? Is there any flexibility?

Mr. Springsteel: You'll see a couple of detailed points in the tariff language. You can change Option 1 or Option 2 once.

Mr. Kearns: Regarding Impact Studies, how long is the impact study good for? (in case applicants apply and get rejected in year 1, and they want to use it for year 2)

Mr. Springsteel: Good for one year.

Mr. Kearns: Shouldn't we allow validity for more time? Otherwise it's a huge investment.

Mr. Springsteel: the system is always changing, so it's hard to have consistency or accuracy over several years with just one study.

Ms. Beland: Replacing output test by output test by PE. Who pays?

Mr. Springsteel: The customer pays.

Ms. Beland: No add-on systems allowed. What about residential projects that wanted an add-on?

Mr. Springsteel: Never say never. We'd have to look at that. They just could not violate the sizing brackets. It would be something that the board would have to consider.

Chris: In terms of the amount of studies, is Grid making internal preparations such as an interconnections team? If the PUC approves this in March, and impact studies take 60-90 days, have there been consideration in regards to how much more work Grid will have to do?

Mr. Springsteel: yes

Ken: As we proceed into the tariff, are there going to be provisions for required performance guarantees?

Mr. Springsteel: No provisions for replacement power.

Ken: This thing may be, for the users, much simpler than what we have now. What about the more complex elements of the old system that will vanish under the new system?

Mr. Springsteel: a lot of the considerations that would have been handled by contractual provisions will now be deferred to the consideration of the PUC.

Mr. Springsteel: There are other specific provisions that could be written out, pending approval of the PUC.

Public Comments

Ms. Beland: The REC's will not be owned by utility in small scale?

Mr. Springsteel: the RECs WILL. The energy and capacity will not.

Ms. Beland: Is the size limit for residential 125% of consumption?

Ian: It's 100% of 3-year average for net-metering.

Mr. Payne entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Sheila and seconded by Charity. The meeting ended at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Chris Kearns

Secretary Pro-tempore