



## **Renewable Energy Growth Program Staffing and Application Data Updates**

Presentation at Rhode Island Distributed Generation Board

May 18, 2015

# General Updates

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- National Grid announced the opening dates for the two main program elements on May 7; email and media coverage has helped spread word with customers and developers
- Small Solar enrollment will open on June 15; all forms will be posted on website by approximately June 1
- The first two-week enrollment period will open on August 3; an additional confirmation and reminder will go out early July
- The second two-week enrollment period is presently targeted to open on October 19, to ensure it concludes before the Board finalizes its recommended pricing for 2016

# Interconnection Seminar, April 29

- National Grid hosted a seminar at the Commerce RI offices for interconnection and RE Growth enrollment training
- Approximately 45 external attendees, in person and on phone/webinar
- Main areas for clarification (not related to interconnection):
  - Queue concerns for medium, same price, and leftover capacity/flexibility
  - Tax issues and clarity on 1099s
  - Capacity updates for Small Solar open enrollment

# Tax Issues Update

- National Grid assessed the transactions that will occur due to RE Growth and has developed a policy guidance document that will be posted on RE Growth site
- All PBI payments trigger for us a responsibility to report such payments to IRS, and provide 1099s to certain recipients
  - W-9s will be required from all (except TPO residential)
- Bill credits for residential customers will not incur reporting, as we do not take title to the energy – it is a bill adjustments
- Bill credits for non-residential customers will be reported, as energy is received and payment method is optional

# Staffing and Work Management

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- The RE Growth Program touches many departments within National Grid – Technical Sales, Energy Procurement, Engineering, Meter Services, Billing, Accounts Processing, etc.
- As a regional utility, many of our functions are shared services that are centrally staffed and located in one state but serve all customers
- Other services that are physical in nature must be staffed in Rhode Island and other states as needed
- Most departments are responsible for similar work in other states, or other work in RI, that is substantially greater in volume than RE Growth work
- National Grid is strategically adding a few positions to ensure high quality and timely service through the RE Growth program, but does not want to overstaff with dedicated resources that would not be fully used

# Small Solar Process & Staffing

- Customer Solutions: Interconnection application, COE requirements
  - 29 person department (15 focused on DG connections), **adding 1 FTE to be located in MA**
- Overhead and Underground Construction: System upgrades
  - 207 people in RI (management and union), no plans to add
- Lab & Test Services and Customer Meter Solutions: Meter testing, install
  - L&TS: 53 person Test department, **adding 1 FTE in MA**
  - CMS: 50 people in RI, no plans to add
- Accounts Processing: Account set up and coding
  - 45 person department, **adding 1 FTE in MA**

# Larger Solar and Other Technology Process & Staffing

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- Technical Sales and Engineering Support (TSES): Primary customer contact for non-small scale projects, assisting with interconnection application/study process, COE requirements and construction coordination as necessary
  - 19 person department, **planning 1 additional FTE in RI**
- Retail Connection Engineering: ISR DG, Detailed studies and energization coordination as required
  - 14 person department, added 1 in RI for DGSC program, **will use contractors in RI for added RE Growth work** from our DG MSA contractor list (6 firms)
- Environmental Transactions: RE Growth enrollment process
  - Three person team, **added 50% of 1 FTE for RE Growth in NY**

# Project Data to be Captured

- In addition to project data needed for enrollment, National Grid will collect information for the DG Board and OER from all systems, most related to solar projects, via applications
- Data will include: project cost, electric and building permit costs, type of installation (roof, ground, tracker), azimuth and tilt, panel type and manufacturer, and whether an EE audit has been performed at customer location
- Data would be provided following completion of each periodic two-week enrollment
- OER will take on audit, analysis and ownership of the data