

Distributed Generation Board Meeting
Monday, May 18th, 2015
4:00-5:30 p.m.
Department of Administration – Conference Room C
Agenda

Board members present: Sharon Conard-Wells, Bill Ferguson, Marion Gold, Hannah Morini, Kenneth Payne, Charity Pennock

Others present: Shauna Beland, Vito Buonomano, Danielle Burns, Jim Calandra, Ryan Crowley, Corinne DiDomenico, Tom Davies, Tim Faulkner, Omar Muneeruddin, Matt Piantedosi, Laura Rodormer, Ian Springsteel, Raquel Webster

Call to Order: Chairman Payne called the meeting to order at 4:13

1. Approval of the April Meeting Minutes

Charity Pennock pointed out that Samuel Bradner's name must be corrected. Motion to approve meeting minutes made by Bill Ferguson, second by Sharon Conard-Wells. All approved.

2. Update on Low-Income and Multi-Family Working Group

Shauna Beland noted that the first meeting will be an hour and a half on May 26 beginning at 3:30. The introductory meeting will create a work plan and frame work for the group. All invited persons were invited by way of doodle poll. Raquel Webster of National Grid noted she would like to attend. Commissioner Gold said she would also like to attend. Ian Springsteel added that Laura Rodormer should be included in the group.

3. Update from National Grid about Solar Photovoltaic Data from projects and Staffing of the Renewable Energy Growth systems

Mr. Springsteel presented an update on Renewable Energy Growth Program staffing and application data/ Staffing and Application Data. He reported 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. Mr. Springsteel also reported that an interconnection seminar was held on April 29th. There was a good turnout. Areas of clarification were based around Q concerns. National Grid intends to have more information available to folks with questions.

Ms. Pennock noted that all regular net metering persons are not getting a 1099 and asked why the net meter credit would be added to the 1099. Mr. Springsteel said that is a rapidly evolving area and the IRS has been asked to rule on this.

Ms. Beland thanked National Grid for providing the project data. Chairman Payne said the information presented by National Grid seems to indicate that the launch of the program will be successful.

Vito Buonomano asked if there any plans to expand the 0-10 kW single phase into the commercial sector and Mr. Spingsteel said that if the size of the project is appropriate, commercial properties would qualify

4. Cadmus update regarding Solar Quality Assurance

Matt Piantedosi made a presentation outlining the new interconnection requirements for the RI REG Program.

Commissioner Gold asked why the utility is requiring the new method configuration. Mr. Springsteel said it was written into law and is much more accurate. It also provides flexibility for National Grid to pay the source directly.

Sharon Conard-Wells asked what the costs would be for modifying an existing meter. Mr. Piantedosi pointed out that there will be labor costs associated with the modification but thought the costs would not be outweighed by the benefits.

5. Update on the proposed Property Tax legislation and its possible impacts on the Renewable Energy Growth Program

Commissioner outlined the status of bills S-707 and H-5955. Bills are in the environmental committees of both chambers. Ms. Pennock said the Sub A of the legislation will be issued within the next week or two. She also noted that stakeholder input was received last Friday, 5/15/15.

6. Open Discussion on opportunities to integrate the 2016 Energy Efficiency and the Small Solar - Renewable Energy Growth Program

Ms. Beland said that there was a bit of a gap with the Renewable Energy Growth Program and small scale solar. She stated that it is now being tracked whether or not the projects have received an energy audit. The gap would be what the board would do if the homeowner had not considered energy efficiency before installing solar. Commissioner Gold said that OER has been working with Clean Water Finance Authority and National Grid to roll out expanded finance opportunities and the group has encountered the same issue. Chairman Payne noted that by definition, over time cost procurement is lower cost than the cost of energy and to date, renewables have been more expensive than efficiency.

Hannah Morini stated her concern that if people pursue energy efficiency after already participating in a Renewable Energy Growth Program that may become ineligible for the program because they may then be over producing. Mr. Ferguson pointed out that under the REF homeowner must get a home energy audit.

Mr. Springsteel said National Grid is going to be tracking on the interconnection applications whether or not customers have had a home energy audit and would then share the information with National Grid's energy efficiency group. He also noted that the law allows for a tie in program to be developed by the utility. It

would take 50% of the quantity of the small and medium programs and harness is with an energy efficiency program of some sort. This is all something that is being considered by the utility. Ms. Pennock asked if National Grid could present to the board at some point. Mr. Springsteel said National Grid is still working on it internally.

Ms. Conard-Wells mentioned that homeowner education centers are in need of a one page fact sheet. Commissioner Gold suggested that Laura Rodormer and Ms. Beland could work together to draft such an information sheet. The FAQ sheet will be created and updated in a quarterly time period.

Ms. Beland said she is working with the Clean Energy States Alliance on a residential guide book for going solar. It will include quality assurance and energy efficiency items.

Commissioner Gold noted that she, Ms. Pennock and others have been involved with a docket opened by the PUC, regarding distributed generation. The purpose of the docket is to consider rate design and distribution cost allocation among rate classes. Chairman Payne suggested having a public workshop for an overview of the PUC Docket sponsored by OER, DG Board and EERMC in June or July. The board agreed that it was a good idea.

Mr. Ferguson said under the energy efficiency plan there is a prerequisite that EE measures must be implemented, so there is an opportunity to relate it to solar.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Piantedosi noted that in his experience in Massachusetts, people with small roof space are not offsetting their electric bills by 100% with the addition of solar. The roof space limits the size of the PV system.

Mr. Buonomano stated that he was against the requirement for energy efficiency with the new program. Under the current provisions, an REP contractor cannot do an energy audit and the state should not over regulate this program. He also noted that people should have the right to switch over to the .40 per kW provided that they did not accept REF funds.

8. Adjourn

Ms. Conard-Wells made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pennock and the meeting was adjourned at 5:43