

**Distributed Generation Board Meeting**  
**Monday, June 15th, 2015**  
**4:00-5:30 p.m.**  
**Department of Administration – Conference Room C**  
**Agenda**

**Board members present:** Samuel Bradner, Sheila Dormody, Marion Gold, Hannah Morini, Ken Payne, Charity Pennock

**Others present:** Sue AnderBois, Shauna Beland, Ryan Crowley, Julian Dash, Tim Faulkner, Antonio Giorgi, Seth Handy, Chris Kearns, Danny Musher, Laura Rodormer, Ian Springsteel, Becca Trietch, Dennis Watson, Raquel Webster

**Call to Order:** Chairman Payne called the meeting to order at 4:15pm.

**1. Approval of the April Meeting Minutes**

Sheila Dormody made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. Charity Pennock seconded the motion and all approved.

**2. Brief Update on 2016 Renewable Energy Growth Program Ceiling Price Development  
Finalizing the SA contract at the end of the month with the idea that contract prices will be set in July**

Shauna Beland reported that The SA contract will be finalized at the end of the month with the idea that work would start on the ceiling prices 2016 at the beginning of July.

**3. Update and Discussion with National Grid on Interconnection Policy on Direct Transfer Trips –  
Impacts on the Renewable Energy Growth Program and Existing Net-Metered or Distributed  
Generation Renewable Energy Systems**

Tim Roughan gave a presentation outlining interconnection policy on direct transfer trip and the impacts on the existing systems. Charity Pennock asked for clarification on slide 12 of the presentation. Mr. Roughan said if the DG is truly interspersed throughout the system and no one place that connects to the utility is more than 5 megawatts the old standard would be used. When there is a common connection point with no other load, the requirement of ISO New England is prompted. Hannah Morini asked if all customers are connected to the ISO to make sure that the programs are generating revenue to support themselves. Mr. Roughan clarified that the tariffs and the statutes have language that require the utility to do so. He assured her that the requirement only applies if there is no load in between customers.

A member of the audience asked what happens if a depreciation schedule is set up for an initial purchase price and then there is an additional cost incurred that is not part of it. Mr. Roughan said National Grid is making customers aware during the pre-application process that they may trigger the overage. Chris Kearns asked for the contact information for the ISO New England representative the utilities have been working with to address the issues and suggested that the Office of Energy Resources should speak with ISO New

England because OER sets the ceiling prices. Seth Handy expressed concern that National Grid, in classifying wholesale transactions, net-metering should not be classified as a wholesale transaction.

#### **4. Update and Discussion with National Grid on the Tax Form/Procedure Process for the 2015 Renewable Energy Growth Program and the ISO-New England/OP4 Matter**

Ian Springsteel continued the presentation outlining the tax form and procedure process for the 2015 Renewable Energy Growth Program. Ms. Beland asked if the forms were available on the website. Mr. Springsteel said the form will be available on the National Grid website Wednesday, 6/17 and that the tax policy statement is posted on the website. He added that this summer National Grid will be implementing software called Switch, which will allow consumers to communicate with the company and submit paperwork in a secure and encrypted way. This will be available only to approved users. For now, customers must mail their paperwork. The application will need to be completed at the interconnection phase.

Ms. Morini ask if National Grid wants the W9's when someone submits an application. Mr. Springsteel said yes. He also noted that the digital team discouraged the company from allowing applications to be faxed for security purposes. Ms. Pennock asked if there are examples of other states or utilities that are sending out 1099's for bill credit or net-metering systems. Mr. Springsteel said yes, it is about a 50/50 split.

A member of the audience inquired whether or not leasing solar is allowed in Rhode Island now. Mr. Springsteel said that Rhode Island General Law has changed and it is now possible for leasing companies to be involved in the process.

#### **5. Continuing Discussion on opportunities to integrate the 2016 Energy Efficiency and the Small Solar - Renewable Energy Growth Programs**

Mr. Kearns requested that Jeremy Newberger or Michael McAteer speak with the board on this item in the July meeting. Chairman Payne and National Grid's representatives that were present agreed with the idea and decided that National Grid will do a presentation in July. Ms. Pennock added that she wished to get clarification about whether efficiency needs to be done first before distributed generation.

Mr. Springsteel and Laura Rodormer outlined the handout that was distributed in the meeting materials. Commissioner Gold noted that the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank must be kept in mind when planning ahead for programs currently available.

Juliann Dash pointed out that competition is key for the expansion of solar and stated that he believes that there is not enough competition in the programs that are offered. Mr. Spingsteel responded saying that market research often shows that customers prefer a one-stop-shop. Mr. Dash added that the tiered incentive structure seems to make solar companies to be effective in efficiency in an unnatural way. The main goal should be lowering the cost for consumers.

## **6. Public Comment**

One member of the audience noted that she called RISE to set up a free home energy audit and was not contacted back for 2 months and then had to wait 4 months for the audit itself.

## **7. Adjourn**

Samuel Bradner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dormody seconded the motion and all approved. Chairman Payne adjourned the meeting at 5:46p.m.