

**Distributed Generation Board Meeting
Monday, July 23, 2018**

4:00-5:30PM

Department of Administration – Conference Room B

Board Members Present: Kenneth Payne, Bill Ferguson, Samuel Bradner, Sheila Dormody, Annie Ratanasim, Karen Stewart, Laura Bartsch, Carol Grant, Chris Kearns, and Ian Springsteel.

Others Present: Shauna Beland, Sara Canabarro, Bryan Evans, Doug Sabetti and Eric Martin.

Call to Order: Chairman Kenneth Payne called the meeting to order at 4:06PM

1. Introductions and Welcoming New Board Members

Chairman Payne asked the Board Members in the room to go around and introduce themselves.

2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

Chairman Payne requested a motion to approve June's meeting minutes. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Ms. Dormody seconded it. All Approved.

3. National Grid Presentation – Operational Projects, Capacity and Municipal Locations of 2015 - 2017 Renewable energy Growth Systems

Mr. Springsteel went over the RI Reg Program Summary (2015-2017) Operational Capacity, which included: Medium- Scale Solar, Commercial-Scale Solar, Large-Scale Solar, and Small & Large Wind. He restated again that these are all operational capacity.

Mr. Kearns added that any capacity that wasn't used in the past years, are now going to be allocated towards the 2019 Plan.

Chairman Payne noted that the Office of Energy Resources and National Grid are working together to monitor these numbers (unused capacity), and expect to have a final count by October, and present it at the DG Board Meeting.

4. Continued Discussion on Recommendations for Solar Quality Assurance Matters for 2019 Renewable Energy Growth Program

Ms. Beland reported that there are 4 additional items on the Plan for Quality Assurance for the 2019 REG Program Year. These recommendations apply under: Self-Installers, Inspection Violations, Total Project Cost Data Reporting, and Inspection Language (refer to Recommendations Proposal Document).

Mr. Bradner stated that he sees a huge value on having the Total Project Cost Data Reporting recommendation. Ms. Beland noted that the developers will probably push-back on having to fill out the total project cost on the interconnection application. Mr. Bradner restated that he believes this is adding huge value to the process, and developers should be required to provide this information.

Mr. Springsteel agrees with the recommendation for the mandatory-training for Self-Installers. He noted that he is unsure about the Total Project Cost Data Reporting recommendation- he believes that the more complicated the detail is, the more unreliable is going to be. Also, Mr. Springsteel fears that they will start to miss out on applications because developers aren't filling out the required fields.

Ms. Stewart stated that she finds the training for self-installers to be a great recommendation. She hopes that this training will avoid any issues with poor installations in the future.

Ms. Ratanasim asked Ms. Beland about how inspections would be required under "Inspection Language". Ms. Beland explained that the inspections would be chosen at random. Mr. Springsteel stated that making the inspections a requirement, might turn into a legal issue.

Commissioner Grant stated that inspection violations should be taken seriously, and we should really focus on this matter, and how to avoid it in the future.

Ms. Dormody agreed with Commissioner Grant's comment. She stated that the Board should focus on a report about consumer protection. She noted that she doesn't want the same company/developer to keep going around providing bad service to multiple houses.

Chairman Payne agreed with both comments. He agreed that they should focus on a consumer protection report. He noted that most residents are not informed about possible violations or misleads, and they trust the installers. He added that it should be the Board's responsibility to try to help protect the residents.

Mr. Kearns stated that Shauna is already working on a consumer protection report, and it should be done by September. He suggested having this report as a requirement to distribute to buyers when developers approach them with a sale pitch.

Ms. Dormody stated that she is extremely concern about this turning into a liability issue since the Board is aware of who the bad installers/developers are and cannot share the information.

Mr. Springsteel suggested to have an offline conversation about this issue to figure out who the installers are since this is a violation of their license, and they need to have a process of this.

Mr. Kearns stated that he is going to set- up a meeting in August with OER, Legal Team, National Grid and Labor & Training to discuss this matter.

Ms. Bartsch asked if there's any cost for the installers to attend the training provided by CADMUS. Ms. Beland replied that there is no cost to the installers. Ms. Bartsch noted that if there's no cost, she believes this training should be mandatory for the installers to attend.

Chairman Payne asked the members to please send more suggestions/ideas to Shauna and Chris prior to the meeting in August.

5. Update on Megawatt Capacity Remaining with the 2018 Renewable Energy Growth - Small Solar Program

Chris Kearns reported that he expects the REG Solar Program to reach capacity by the end of this month.

6. Public Comments

Doug Sabetti stated that he agrees with the Consumer Protection Report, and believes they need to find ways to protect consumers, owners, and National Grid as well. He noted this is a multi-problem issue.

Mr. Sabetti reported that he often receives calls with complaints about safety, bad advertisement, bad quality installations, but mostly safety concerns. He stated that he tries to reach to OER and the Attorney General's office to report these situations.

Mr. Kearns asked Shauna to circulate the recommendation document with the Solar Stakeholders after OER meets with National Grid, Legal team, and Labor & Training. He noted he will follow up on the items mentioned today at the next meeting in August.

No additional comments were made.

7. Adjourn

Chairman Kenneth Payne requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ferguson made a motion, and Ms. Dormody seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02PM.