Distributed Generation Board Meeting

Monday, January 25, 2021

4:00 – 5:30 PM

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Meeting Agenda

Board Attendees: Jeremy Licht, Ian Springsteel, Sam Bradner, Laura Bartsch, Sheila Dormody, Karen Stewart and Nicholas Ucci

Other Attendees: Doug Sabetti, Andrew Araneo, Felicia Marcello, Jim Kennerly, Kate Daniel, Shauna Beland, Carrie Gill, Chris Kearns, Jackie Olivieri, Brock Gibian, Meghan McGuinness, Tom Kender and Kate Nota

The Board meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

1. Approval of November 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Licht requested a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Mr. Bradner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written, and Ms. Bartsch seconded it. All approved.

2. Update on Docket #5088, the 2021 Renewable Energy Growth (REG) Program (Office of Energy Resources)

Mr. Kearns provided a brief update on Docket #5088, the 2021 Renewable Energy Growth Program, including the PUC docket hearing date on January 27. The hearing will discuss the 2021 PY plan and the Board will be notified on the outcome of the PUC decision in mid-February.

3. Discussion on Drafted 2022 REG Reconciliation Budget (Sustainable Energy Advantage Presentation)

Mr. Kennerly provided a high level overview of the 2022 REG Program and ceiling price development tasks. Mr. Kennerly also discussed the key differences from the 2021 budget including the evaluation of the continued Carport Solar pilot, the evaluation of the Low-Income Community Remote Distributed Generation program, and the potential development of an Energy Storage Public Policy Adder. Budget estimates were also provided for supplemental stakeholder engagement, additional PUC engagement, client coordination/project management; and any efforts contingent upon enactment of new laws or adoption of new policies. It was noted that many of these tasks are also dependent upon approval by the Board, PUC and/or Board request to National Grid.
4. The Road to 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030 (Office of Energy Resources Presentation)

Ms. Gill provided a presentation on the guiding principles and forecasting demand for the 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030 goal. Ms. Gill also discussed portfolio costs and how these will flow to ratepayers through electricity rates. Macroeconomic impacts for each renewable energy resource were also presented.

5. Discussion on Future Board Meeting Topics

Mr. Bradner requested the solar siting topic for the February or March Board meeting. Ms. Dormody recommended that the intersection of the REG program and siting concerns come from the VNM program. The topic of larger projects into the Distributed Generation program will also be discussed.

6. Public Comment

Mr. Sabetti brought up the sizing methodology used for National Grid for small scale solar projects. Mr. Sabetti expressed concern with residential ratepayers’ electric bills and next steps for potential action.

Mr. Gibian stated his concerns with the single axis solar tracker proposal. Mr. Gibian also encouraged small-scale distributed solar for the Renewable Energy Growth program.

There were no additional public comments.

7. Adjourn

Chairperson Licht requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dormody made a motion, and Ms. Bartsch seconded it. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.