

VSPC Net Metering Update

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Background

- ▶ Act 99, passed in 2014, directed the Public Service Board to oversee the process of developing a Net Metering Rule for Vermont that will:
 - ▶ (A) Advance VT's renewable goals and total renewables targets
 - ▶ (B) Achieve deployment consistent with Energy Plan unless PSB determines energy plan is inconsistent with goals in (A)
 - ▶ (C) To extent feasible, ensure no cost shifting in each retail electricity provider's revenue requirement
 - ▶ (D) Account for all costs and benefits of net metering, including T&D and to reduce consumption of fossil fuels
 - ▶ (E) Ensure all customers who want to participate in net metering have the opportunity to do so
 - ▶ (F) Balance, over time, pace of deployment and cost of program with NM's impact on rates
 - ▶ (G) Account for changes over time in the cost of technology
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Process

- ▶ The new Net Metering Rule will take effect in 2017.
 - ▶ Act 99 charged the Public Service Department with producing a report on Vermont's current net metering program; the PSD filed its report in October 2014 and parties commented on the report.
 - ▶ After a kickoff meeting in February, three working groups were developed to address the following aspects of the Net Metering Rule:
 - ▶ General Process
 - ▶ Rate Structure
 - ▶ Interconnection (moved to PSD Rule 5.500 process)
 - ▶ The Working Groups are comprised of developers, utilities, PSD staff, advocacy groups, and interested citizens.
 - ▶ The working groups have been a forum for discussion regarding the components of the Net Metering Program without attempting to come up with a proposal for a new rule or build consensus.
 - ▶ The PSB is using this process to gather information.
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Working Group Discussion Topics

- ▶ The General Process Working Group has Focused on the following:
 - ▶ Net metering form and application process
 - ▶ Transfer of CPGs
 - ▶ Siting of adjacent projects
 - ▶ Project tracking and verification
 - ▶ How Section 248 Criteria should be applied to Net Metered Projects (i.e. rooftop vs. group NM)
 - ▶ General siting considerations
 - ▶ Billing Standards and Procedures (slated for 4/30 meeting)



Working Group Discussion Topics

- ▶ The Rate Structure Working Group has Focused on the following:
 - ▶ “Use it or Lose it” policy for Net Metering Credits
 - ▶ Bi-Directional Rates
 - ▶ Time of Use Rates
 - ▶ Minimum Bills, Stand-by charges
 - ▶ WEC’s Net Metering Program
 - ▶ Net Metering as a Rate Class
 - ▶ Value of Net Metering
 - ▶ RECs
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Next Steps

- ▶ Four out of six scheduled meetings have been held for the Rates and General Process Working Groups.
- ▶ The Public Service Board expects to begin drafting a revised Net Metering Rule in June.
- ▶ Stakeholders may also submit proposed rules for comment.
- ▶ On or before January 1, 2016 the Public Service Board will submit its proposed rule to the relevant House and Senate Committees.
- ▶ The final rule must be adopted by the PSB prior to July 1, 2016.

