

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 15-E-0082 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the Policies, Requirements and Conditions For Implementing a Community Net Metering Program.

NOTICE INSTITUTING PROCEEDING, SOLICITING
COMMENTS, AND PROVIDING FOR STAKEHOLDER MEETING

(Issued February 10, 2015)

Please take notice that a proceeding is instituted to develop the community net metering program the Commission required in its Order Raising the Net Metering Minimum Program Caps, Requiring Tariff Revisions, Making Other Findings and Establishing Further Procedures (Net Metering Order), issued on December 15, 2014 in Cases 14-E-0151 and 14-E-0422. The Net Metering Order also directed Department of Public Service Staff (Staff) to consult with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, the major electric utilities, and other interested stakeholders on community net metering.¹ To facilitate that consultation, attached to this Notice is a Straw Proposal prepared by Staff outlining a potential framework for the implementation of a community net metering program, and posing questions on issues related to the Straw Proposal.

Accordingly, Staff will convene a consultative meeting on Friday, March 6, 2015 to discuss the Staff Straw Proposal and other issues stakeholders might raise regarding community net metering. The meeting will be held at 10:30 A.M. at the Department of Public Service (DPS) Albany Offices, 3rd Floor Hearing Room, 3 Empire State Plaza. To join the meeting by teleconference, individuals may call (866) 394-2346 and use conference code 4281582981.

¹ Net Metering Order at 28.

Moreover, comments are solicited on the Staff Straw Proposal and any other issues that might affect implementation of community net metering. The deadline for submitting initial comments is March 31, 2015, with replies due April 13, 2015. Parties and stakeholders are asked to submit comments to the Secretary by e-filing through the DPS Document and Matter Management System (DMM),² or by e-mail to the Secretary at secretary@dps.ny.gov. If unable to file electronically, commenters may make submissions by post or hand delivery to the Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary, Three Empire Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350. Information and instructions related to becoming a party, subscribing to the service list, or otherwise monitoring the status of this proceeding can found on the Commission's Web site.³

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Stephen Berger by e-mail at stephen.berger@dps.ny.gov, or by telephone at (518) 473-0270.

(SIGNED)

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS
Secretary

² How to Register with DMM, <http://www.dps.ny.gov/e-file/registration.html>.

³ <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/RequestAPStatus.aspx>

Community Net Metering ProgramSTAFF STRAW PROPOSAL
(February 10, 2015)

1. Community net metered generators limited to those eligible for net metering per PSL §§66-j and 66-l.
2. Community net metered generator to be located behind a "host" meter.
3. Each community net metered project to be limited to 2 MW consistent with PSL §§66-j and 66-l.
4. Each community net metered project will be counted against the net metering utility's cap.
5. Each community net metered project must pay interconnection costs per §§66-j and 66-l.
6. The credits generated in excess of the host load will be calculated as earned under the service classification rules in effect at the host and those credits will be distributed to all community net metered members.
7. All credits should be distributed within one year of accumulation, eliminating the need for the cash out of credits otherwise provided for under PSL §§66-j and 66-l in some circumstances.
8. Community net metered project members may be residential or non-residential.
9. All members must take delivery service in the same service territory in which the net metered project is located (i.e. from the utility taking the power) and the same NYISO zone.
10. There shall be a single community net metered project host organizer (e.g. association, ESCO, town, village, other entity, including a project developer) for each project to interface with the project developer, the utility and the membership.
11. Community net metered project host organizer to provide the net metering utility a list of members' account numbers, names, addresses and percent distribution of output in excess of host load among members.

12. Community net metered project membership and percentage distribution of output changes permitted monthly on 30 day's advanced notice to utility.
13. If a member(s) are not available for crediting (e.g. exits utility service territory between membership updates), undistributed credits carried on community net metered project host account by the utility until instructions for distribution are received. Credits accumulated at the project host account must be distributed to member accounts within one year.
14. Utilities that bill bi-monthly are to reflect accumulation and distribution of credits accordingly.
15. The net metering utility has the option to modify community net metered project host and members' meter read dates to be read on the same cycle.

Questions for Stakeholder Comment

1. Should community net metering be made available at demand metered as well as non-demand metered host sites? If so, what considerations affect participation and the distribution of credits to members at demand host sites, and what, if any, conditions and requirements should be imposed at demand host sites that differ from those in place at non-demand host sites?
2. Should there be a low-income component to community net metering? If so, please provide details on a proposed structure including verification of income and other requirements for participation.
3. Should each community net metered project have a minimum and maximum number of members? If so, how many for each?
4. Should a limit be set on the proportion of the generation output in excess of host load that a member can be allocated for its share? If so, what should the limit be? In addition, should a member's share be limited to no more than its load or a proportion of its load? If a proportion, what should the proportion be?
5. What consumer protections should be considered with respect to community net-metering?

6. How can grid locational benefits be incorporated into community net-metering?
7. Are there other issues that should be considered with respect to the community net-metered host organizer, each member, energy service companies (ESCOs) and the net-metering utility?