

Delaware Renewable Energy Taskforce

Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting minutes

In attendance

Taskforce Members:

Glenn Moore, Delmarva Power

Dale Davis, Delaware Solar Energy Coalition

John Sykes, environmental advocate

Radley Reist, Sustainable Energy Utility

Mark Neilson, Delaware Electrical Cooperative

Finn McCabe, Delaware Solar Energy Coalition

Pat McCullar, DEMEC

Michael Sheehy, Public Advocate

Stanley Merritt, DuPont, renewable energy
research and development industry

Andrea Maucher, Office of the Public Advocate

Derick Botha, Motech, renewable energy
research and development industry

Kimberly Schlichting, DEMEC

Carolyn Snyder, DNREC, Taskforce Chair

Also:

Bill O'Brien, Public Service Commission

Pam Knotts, Public Service Commission

Barry Sheingold, PSC consultant

Tom Noyes, DNREC

Members of the Public:

Bruce Gillete

Tom Edwards

Jim Black

1. Welcome and introductions

Derick Botha of AstraZeneca was welcomed as a new member representing the renewable energy research and development industry.

2. Update on the SREC Pilot Program

Glenn Moore of Delmarva Power provided an update on the SREC Pilot Program.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) order directed two changes be made to the Pilot Program. These have been incorporated and the final version should be filed with the PSC within a few days.

The Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) approved the hiring of SRECTrade as the procurement agent for the Program. A contract is expected to be signed this week. Also, the contract between Delmarva Power and the SEU will be signed shortly. Once these contracts are executed, it should take 4 to 6 weeks to open the auction. This will take place through the SEU website.

3. Data requests and reports from DPL and the SEU after the first auction

The Taskforce discussed the data needed to evaluate the Pilot Program and decide on a procurement process for the next compliance year.

The Taskforce discussed the handling of confidential data and how to aggregate the auction data in useful ways without identifying bidders.

Taskforce members expressed an interest in analyzing data on the difference between administratively set prices and auction prices, the number of SRECs bid into the tiers, the prices of the different tiers (including SREC prices for smaller projects bidding up to higher tiers), the prices differences between built installations and those under construction, and how many projects use the local materials and labor bonuses.

The PSC will look at some more subjective questions, such as how the process worked for bidders, how the procurement agent performed and the timeliness of the auction process.

4. Developing list of potential discussion questions for the next program year

The Taskforce reviewed some potential discussion questions, focusing on those most relevant to designing a procurement program for the upcoming program year.

5. Next steps/next meeting

Taskforce members expressed an interest in meeting twice a month to review the issues. The Taskforce will meet again in February to begin reviewing some key issues, even though the auction will not have taken place yet.

The Taskforce will review the decision making roles, timeline and priority questions in evaluating the Pilot Program, and begin working on straw-man proposals for next year's procurement.

6. Public comments

Bruce Gillette, Pastor of Limestone Presbyterian Church (the first church in Delaware to install PV) spoke on the difficult situation of early adopters who have seen the SREC market drop. He urged the Taskforce to help early adopters so they can continue to be strong advocates

Tom Edwards of St. Marks United Methodist Church said his church installed an even larger system echoed Rev. Gillette's concerns, and said he appreciates the Taskforce considering their situation

Jim Black, the chair of the Delaware Chapter, Sierra Club raised the question of how we can allocate SRECs to be fair to all parties and meet the goals of legislation.

Meeting adjourned.