

Meeting Notes: Transmission Small Generator Interconnection and Integration

Date: 2/25/16

Hosts: Renewable Northwest – Cameron Yourkowski, BPA – Nick Peck, Lindsay Bleifuss, Crystal Ball, Chris Gilbert, Ayo Idowu, Cherilyn Randall

Attendees: Evan Ramsey (Bonneville Environmental Fund), Aleka Scott (PNGC), Mike Beanland (Triaxis Energy), Scott Piscitello (Sunpower), Brian Skeahan (Community Renewable Energy Association), Jeff Bissonnette (Oregon Solar Energy Industry Association), Bill Eddie (One Energy Renewables), Diane Broad (Oregon Dept. of Energy), Alan Hickenbottom (Umatilla Electric), Robbie Horwitz (Sun Power) Michael O'Brien (Renewable Northwest)

Agenda and Presentations:


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Update.pptx


STF - RNW
SGIP_Integration_20

BPA Solar Task Force Meeting---2/25/16

Location: 421 SW 6th Ave, Suite 1125, Portland, OR 97204

1-888-259-2921, 16295581#

Agenda:

- 1) Introductions and Overview of Solar Task Force (20-minutes) (Cameron/Chris)
- 2) BPA Small Generator Interconnection process/policy (30-minutes) (Nick Peck)

Useful links:

SGIP Home Page

<https://www.bpa.gov/transmission/Doing%20Business/Interconnection/Pages/SGIP.aspx>

SGIP Business Practice

https://www.bpa.gov/transmission/Doing%20Business/Interconnection/Documents/SGIP_BP_v.3.pdf

Generation Integration Business Practice

https://www.bpa.gov/transmission/Doing%20Business/Interconnection/Documents/Gen_Integ_BP_v.2.pdf

Technical Requirements for Interconnection to the BPA Transmission Grid

https://www.bpa.gov/transmission/Doing%20Business/Interconnection/Documents/tech_requirements_interconnection.pdf

Metering Application Guide

https://www.bpa.gov/transmission/Doing%20Business/Interconnection/Documents/metering_application_guide.pdf

- 3) Group Discussion on interconnection topics (30-minutes)
 - a. PAC Policy 138 (a good/relevant example?)
 - i. http://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pacificorp/doc/Transmission/Transmission_Services/Facility_Interconnection_Requirements_for_Distribution.pdf
 - b. Telemetry requirements
 - c. “Behind the meter resource” definition
 - d. Other?
- 4) Other Task Force Discussion Items (20-minutes) (Cameron/Chris)
 - a. Transmission and solar heat map
 - b. RSS
 - c. 200 KW contract issue
 - d. solar forecasting and scheduling
 - e. solar integration rate design
- 5) Next Steps:
 - a. Other participants?
 - b. Next meeting? Topics?

Summary:

Cameron kicked off the meeting by introducing the group and the reviewing the agenda.

Chris provided a brief overview of the Solar Task Force and connected the next steps to today’s discussion.

Nick took the team through a detailed of explanation of the differences between Small Generator Interconnection and Generation Integration. He covered background information, procedures, and policies.

Notes from the discussions follow:

“It’s a challenge for developers looking at the queue and seeing a long list of proposed generating resources but they don’t know who will come to fruition. Can this be worked around?”

BPA: Yes, developers with a request under study can request an optional study with assumptions about which projects earlier in the queue would or would not be developed.

“BPA could use better early project screening tools to head off a cluttered queue. Should do a compare and contrast between BPA tariff and the FERC pro forma tariff. Is there something we can use?”

BPA: BPA is proactively managing the Interconnection Queue using existing tools, and has successfully negotiated the withdrawal of a good number of dormant requests. Generally speaking, however, the larger projects interconnecting to the BPA grid have little impact on the integration of small behind-the-meter projects. Nick's presentation points out that the BPA Transmission Tariff did not adopt the FERC pro forma sections related to fast-track study options for low voltage distribution system interconnections that most attendees are concerned with, since BPA has no such facilities with which to interconnect.

One participant asked about expedited review and fast track study options for low-voltage, distribution system interconnections.

The growth of smaller utility scale solar and other projects does lead BPA to recognize a need to explore efficiencies in how we address these integrations.

It was pointed out that deposits eliminate "tire kickers"; however BPA noted it cannot intentionally price resources out of the market.

"Do BPA's queue reform policies apply to small generators?"

BPA: Yes

"What keeps queue reform policy from moving forward?"

BPA: There is a small generator interconnection procedural reform package that was developed and approved in 2012, but would need some reworking in the light of recent experience and the changing environment. A tariff filing would be needed to implement the reforms.

"BPA should look at the construction timeline as well especially when the installation process is only about installing a meter. For instance, develop a list of approved installers, develop testing criteria and approved testers, develop commissioning criteria and approved commissioners. Could BPA use the utility's meter and/or could the local utility install and maintain it?"

BPA: We agree that all these are excellent ideas, some of which we are already examining, and which we are ready to explore as we respond to this changing environment.

"How do we manage differences in study schedules?"

BPA: The timelines of the SGIP study process are very flexible.

"Should there be a developer book created to provide the developer and the utility guidance? Maybe more outreach is needed?"

BPA: We are happy to host a pre-application meeting, which is specified in the SGIP, to provide as much information about the interconnection or integration of the proposed project as is possible without having yet conducted a full study. Once the request has been submitted, the developer is always invited to a detailed scoping meeting with staff very familiar with the area.

“Is 3 MW nameplate the right cut-off for telemetry for solar?”

BPA: We are concerned about the aggregation of small projects and will need to review the requirements. It is not just each generator but the accumulation of multiple resources on a single feeder line that create concerns for us. We are undertaking to review not just the thresholds triggering different levels of metering, SCADA etc., but the Business Practices and other requirements, to try both to facilitate the development of all forms of resources within our customers’ service areas and to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the BPA grid.

“Could we get an update on what happened to the small generator telemetry project that had a significantly lower cost?”

BPA: We will look into the status of the project.

Next Steps:

BPA to host an external Power Integration workshop on the PS Contracts, small scale solar integration into the contract (SNEER process), the downstream effect on the Tiered Rates Methodology, possible discussions on Resource Support Services (RSS), and Transmission Interconnection/Integration.

Update on Solar Heat Maps

Update on Small Generation Telemetry project

Email an overview of the SNEER process.

BPA will conduct an internal review of its small generator interconnection and small generator integration policies.

The next external solar task force meeting and topic is yet to be determined. The invites will be determined based on interest and the topic to be addressed. However, BPA is planning to host the Power Integration workshop on June 28th (changed to the 30th) that is open to everyone that will be held in the BPA Rates Hearing Room.

The rate case workshop will address scheduling requirements, VERBS rate design, and options for self-supply.