



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: Service List
Via Electronic Mail

FROM: Shaela McNulty Collins, Hearing Officer

RE: Inquiry into Net Metering and Interconnection of Distributed Generation,
D.P.U. 11-11
Request for Straw Proposals for Net Metering Queue
and Notice of Technical Session to be held on March 23, 2011

DATE: March 8, 2011

cc: Mark D. Marini, Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

On October 15, 2010, Governor Patrick signed into law Chapter 359 of the Acts of 2010, An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects ("Act"). The Act requires the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") to adopt rules and regulations implementing certain changes to the net metering provisions of G.L. c. 164, §§ 138 and 139. St. 2010, c. 359, §§ 25-30. On February 14, 2011, the Department held a technical conference to assist in the implementation of some of the Act's net metering changes. At the technical conference, participants discussed, among other things, submitting straw proposals related to developing a system that provides an assurance of eligibility for a proposed Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity ("governmental net metering facility"), in accordance with the Act.

II. REQUEST FOR STRAW PROPOSALS

The Act requires the Department to adopt a system that provides an assurance of eligibility for proposed governmental net metering facilities, whose aggregate capacity may not exceed two percent of a distribution company's highest historical peak load. As discussed on February 14, 2011, the Department intends to develop, through a stakeholder process, a system that provides such assurance. In order to initiate and focus discussions in the stakeholder process, the Department requests that participants file with the Department by

March 16, 2011, straw proposals for a net metering queue for proposed governmental net metering facilities.¹ To the extent feasible, the Department asks participants to work together and file a single straw proposal per stakeholder group.

The Department recognizes that there continues to be interest in developing an assurance of eligibility for proposed non-governmental net metering facilities, whose aggregate capacity under the Act may not exceed one percent of a distribution company's highest historical peak load. To date, the Department has declined to adopt a queue for net metering applications, reasoning that the reporting requirements contained in 220 C.M.R. § 18.08 would provide sufficient information as to the deployment of net metering and the capacity available under the one percent limit. Order Adopting Model Net Metering Tariff, D.P.U. 09-03-A at 22-23 (2009); Order Adopting Final Net Metering Regulations, D.P.U. 08-75-A at 20-21 (2009).

The responses of the distribution companies to Information Requests DPU 1-1, DPU 1-3 and DPU 1-4 indicate that the aggregate capacity of non-governmental net metering facilities, based upon both those facilities that are interconnected and those that have applied to interconnect, is nearing or exceeding the one percent limit. To help the Department determine whether and how it may implement a queue for non-governmental net metering facilities, the Department invites participants to file with the Department by **March 16, 2011**, straw proposals for a net metering queue for proposed non-governmental net metering facilities. To the extent feasible, the Department asks participants to work together and file a single straw proposal per stakeholder group. The Department may discuss these straw proposals during the technical conference on the net metering queue for governmental net metering facilities.

III. NOTICE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

The Department will hold a technical conference on **March 23, 2011, at 1:00 p.m.**, in Hearing Room A, at the Department's offices, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, MA. During the technical conference, the Department will discuss the content of the straw proposals on governmental net metering facilities and a procedural schedule.

IV. FILING REQUIREMENTS

Participants must file paper copies of all documents with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Please file one original and two (2) copies directed to Shaela Collins, Hearing Officer.

¹ The distribution companies have provided information on queuing of net metering and interconnection applications in response to Information Request DPU 1-7 in this proceeding.

In addition, participants must distribute electronic copies of filings by e-mail attachment to (1) dpu.efiling@state.ma.us; (2) the Hearing Officer, shaela.collins@state.ma.us; and (3) the Department's service list in D.P.U. 11-11. The electronic filing should identify the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 11-11) and the name, title, company affiliation, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

Documents filed with the Department will be available for public inspection at its offices during business hours and through its website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>, by accessing the File Room link. For additional information, please contact Shaela Collins, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3611.