

Belmont Net Metering Working Group Meeting Minutes

25 August 2015

2015 SEP -1 AM 9:56

Town Hall Conference Room 2

Present: Roy Epstein, Robert Gallant, Steve Klionsky & Henry Jacoby

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chair Epstein opened with an explanation of future plans. The Light Board is looking for an update at its August 28 meeting, and wants to receive the WG's final report two weeks before the meeting in which it will be taken up. This is expected to be on September 21, 2015.

Editing and Correction of a Draft Working Group Report

The WG continued its review of its draft report, sentence by sentence, making editorial corrections and clarifications in the text. The editing first focused on the paragraphs concerning balancing of the interests of solar hosts, BL and the community as a whole and the recommended buyback rate and updating procedure. By the end of the available time the Group had yet to complete the review of supporting material, and had not yet considered a draft tariff statement that will be included as an appendix to the report.

Public Contributions

Chair Epstein opened the meeting for public comment.

Claus Becker raised the moral issue at stake, and the need for solar investment. He also questioned the WG's assumption of 8% as an appropriate IRR, when the host is taking on substantial risk.

Roger Wrubel suggested that the WG remove the discussion of SRECs and how they account for environmental value, perhaps only pointing out that if the SRECs and ITC were removed more support for solar would be needed.

Claus Becker stressed the small amount of money involved in the difference between net metering and the WG proposal.

Roger Wrubel called attention to two paragraphs, on how the WG arrived at the proposed payback rate, and said they were not clear. He also noted a paragraph on the handling of technical problems that may arise with solar growth, arguing that this topic is beyond the WG's expertise and should be taken up in the interconnection agreement.

Roger Wrubel also raised a question about PPAs, wondering if BL was opposed to them. Epstein pointed out that the paragraph on third party agreements would be run by BL for comment.

Phil Thayer said if the recommended tariff does not bring lease installers to Belmont it would not meet the WG's charge. Regarding the recommended solarize campaign he said the WG should not expect BL to organize it. Epstein pointed out that the recommendation is directed to the Light Board, which is the appropriate body.

Phil Thayer called attention to an email he had sent to the WG on the morning of August 24, which presents several questions about the draft text and proposed changes. He also suggested additional documents that he thought should be attached to the WG report. Epstein pointed out that important documents were cited in footnotes and will not be included as attachments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.