

Belmont Net Metering Working Group Meeting Minutes

26 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 7:33 p.m.

Editing and Correction of a Draft Working Group Report

The WG continued the review of its draft report, sentence by sentence, making editorial corrections and clarifications in the text. The task was completed by approximately 8:15, with one remaining detail. Member Klionsky will add a sentence or two to the description of the minority position on the transition from the old to the recommended tariff, to be inserted before the final WG vote approving the report.

Editing and Correction of a Draft Tariff Statement

To speed the implementation of the recommended tariff, if the Light Board accepts it, a draft was prepared of a tariff statement. A preliminary version had been prepared for the WG by Member Klionsky, using as a template an earlier edit of the BL 2011 tariff by Jon Abe. The WG reviewed the Klionsky draft, sentence by sentence, editing and removing unnecessary material. At one point in the process a phone call was made to Jon Abe (facilitated by Phil Thayer) to clarify a particular point in his text.

The WG decided to include the draft tariff statement as Appendix to its report.

It was decided that the WG will meet on Monday, 31 August, to conduct its final vote on the report, and to review, correct and approve all the remaining WG meeting minutes. The WG discussed whether alternates should sign the report, as well as the members. The sense of the meeting was that alternates should sign, but first Epstein will check with Town officials to insure this is an appropriate procedure.

Public Contributions

Chair Epstein opened the meeting for public comment.

Phil Thayer asked about the timing with the Light Board, and who will take the next steps in preparing the tariff for submission to the DPU.

Phil Thayer said he had talked to a solar provider who thought that the WG's recommended tariff was OK for direct purchase of solar, but that the firms offering leases and PPA contracts were less enthusiastic, perhaps because their capacity is limited and the business was more attractive in cities with net metering.

Darrell King made several comments about issues in the report, the tariff draft, and the supporting material:

Referring to a statement in the tariff draft he pointed out that additional meters would not be required.

He confirmed that solar units are conventionally sized in peak Watts DC, but that the buyback sales are in AC, with some loss in conversion.

In a section of the report on potential additional fees, he worried that the WG had left BL too much "wobble room".

He felt alternates should sign the report.

He said the WG's report addressed the direct purchase of solar and had not given sufficient to leasing, and he suggested that maybe a separate tariff may be needed for lease or PPA deals.

Claus Becker asked if the "option value" of solar generation was taken into account in the WG's analysis, referring to the high value of the solar output during summer spikes of high temperatures. And he pointed out that with climate change these extreme heat events are expected to become more frequent.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.