

Solar ABCs Interconnection and Net Metering Conference December 14, 2007 – Meeting Minutes

On December 14, 2007, a conference call was held by the Solar ABCs' Interconnection and Net Metering Working Panel and hosted by the North Carolina Solar Center. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce three topics of importance to a volunteer group of about 40 industry participants and open the floor for discussion. The output of this project will be three whitepapers which incorporate the issues raised by the participants. Draft versions of these whitepapers will be available by March 30, 2008.

Introduction

Keith McAllister, Industrial Team Leader at the NC Solar Center, gave opening remarks and introduced the speakers and the three topics to be discussed.

Topic 1 – AMI and Net Metering

Joan Ward, Policy Analyst at the NC Solar Center, made the first presentation entitled *Time-of-Use, AMI, and Net Metering*. After a brief presentation, the floor was opened for commentary from the group. The comments included the following:

- Our goal is to provide best practice policy for this issue
- PV industry would benefit from access to the utility's meter data management data
- Will third parties, in general, have access to meter data management data?
- How will "wholesale-based" net metering impact DG owner payback?
- Will utilities consider electric vehicles in their time-of-use pricing?
- What are the capabilities/limitations of the different AMI technologies?
- Will a patchwork implementation of AMI across the nation complicate state policies?
- What benefits does small distributed generation and net metering bring to the grid?
- How will DG owners be compensated in deregulated states where a third party exists between the utility and the DG owner?
- Will AMI lead more utilities to exclude the T&D portion of the retail rate when they give out net metering credits?
- Will AMI help capture generation data for renewable energy credit purposes?
- Can AMI meters do power quality and voltage measurements?
- Will AMI enable the aggregation of small distributed PV as a peaking resource?
- SMUD can provide information about the costs and value of PV to a utility
- Can meter data from a DG system be obtained from the inverter?
- Net metering should be a standard policy requirement for all AMI systems

Topic 2 – Disconnect Switch

Mike Sheehan, of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, made the second presentation entitled *Disconnect Switch*. After a brief presentation, the floor was opened for commentary from the group. The comments included the following:

- Have utilities which require a disconnect switch integrated the process of working with these switches into their Standard Operating Procedures? If not, can this point be used to prove that utilities really don't consider disconnect switches necessary?
- Utilities must check grounded or dead circuits for the presence of AC and/or DC voltage
- IEEE 1547 proceedings argued against removing meters as a means of isolating a DG site. Concerns included: lack of space for storing the meters; misplacement of meters; and, the fact that customers with a service greater than 240 V utilize PT's and CT's, and thus pulling the meter would not isolate the DG.
- Most utilities pull the meter, place a plastic sleeve over the clamps and then replace the meter to avoid the possibility of having live, exposed parts within the meter base.
- If the disconnect switch is on the customer's side of the meter does this introduce liability concerns for the utility?
- Even if a utility does not require a disconnect switch, some local fire marshals or building inspectors might do so. (*This issue was addressed within the Local Codes and Standards Panel, a separate work group.*)

Topic 3 – Annotation of the IREC Interconnection Model, plus other models

Jason Keyes, a lawyer with the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, made the third presentation entitled *Annotation of the IREC Interconnection Model, plus an overview of other models*. After a brief presentation, the floor was opened for commentary from the group. The comments included the following:

- Much of this discussion centered on the interconnection and net metering ratings given to the states in the report entitled Freeing of the Grid.
- Why were some states not rated in the Freeing of the Grid report? (Answer: Only those states with an interconnection standard were rated.)
- The Freeing of the Grid report should deduct points from states where the utilities increase study costs due to the capacity of the DG.

Conclusion

The meeting was concluded by Jane Weissman, Director of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council. Ms. Weissman thanked all the participants for their contributions and stressed the need for the investigation into these important issues.

December 14 Meeting Participants

First Name	Last Name	Company
Gobind	Atmaram	FSEC
Stephen	Barkaszi	FSEC
Tom	Basso	NREL
Michelle	Boven	Dow
Thomas	Brungard	Tyco Electronics
Steve	Chadima	Energy Innovations, Inc.
Michael	Coddington	NREL
Mark	Edmunds	Xantrex Technology Inc.
Kevin	Fox	IREC
Wil	Grady	Southern California Edison
Scott	Hennessey	Solar Energy Industries Association
Jason	Keyes	IREC
Jenny	Mandel	Greenwire
Keith	McAllister	NC Solar Center - NCSU
richard	michaud	IREC
Erika	Morgan	Citizenre Corporation
Ron	Phillips	Solar Unlimited Network
Maureen	Quinlan	North Carolina Solar Center
Bill	Reaugh	Old Country Roofing
Bob	Reedy	FSEC
James	Rose	Network for New Energy Choices
Mike	Sheehan	IREC
Larry	Sherwood	Sherwood Associates
Brent	Sloan	SMUD
Devarajan	Srinivasan	Arizona Public Service Company
Mike	Taylor	Solar Electric Power Association
Mark	Thornbloom	Schuco USA
Gerry	Torribio	Southern California Edison
Jerry	Ventre	FSEC
JV	Ward	NC Solar Center / IREC
Jane	Weissman	IREC
Chuck	Whitaker	BEW Engineering
Robert	Wills	Citizenre