



MSEIA SOLAR REPORT FOR NEW JERSEY JANUARY 2017 SUMMARY

Strategic Highlights

The 2017 legislative season is kicking off around the country. In California, [Senate Bill S.B. 71](#) would express the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that would require the installation of solar photovoltaic systems or solar water heating systems; potentially, this could result in significant new demand for solar. New York's [Senate Bill S93](#) would establish a community solar pilot program in the state under the management of the NYPSC, and [Senate Bill 822](#) establishes the Farm-to-Urban Consumer Solar Access Act of 2017, which creates a shared solar program for multi-family dwellings, housing cooperatives, and rural communities located within a five-mile radius of a farm operation. In Virginia, [Senate Bill SB1208](#) (cross-filed as [House Bill HB2112](#)), would require the SCC to adopt rules under which community renewable projects are authorized to operate.

PURA establishes 2017 schedule for Supplier Working Group. On December 23, the Connecticut PURA [issued a 2017 schedule](#) for this stakeholder group meets monthly to discuss current topics including consumer protection, electric supplier licensing, Connecticut's renewable portfolio standards process and compliance as well as other matter important to suppliers.

MEPUC to revise the interconnection rules for small DG facilities in Maine. On December 12, the MEPUC opened a rulemaking to consider changes to interconnection procedures for small distributed generation facilities in Maine. These changes could significantly impact the time to operational status for solar projects. Written comments on the proposed amendments are due by 1/25/7.

Governor Hogan releases Maryland's 2017 environmental agenda. On January 8, Gov. Hogan announced his policy agenda for energy and environmental issues for this coming year (and legislative session). Key initiatives include \$41 million to be invested in Tier 1 renewable projects.

Mississippi working group pushes solar safety best practices. The Mississippi Net Metering Solar Safety Working Group issued its first report on January 12, and recommended to the MSPC that it direct a "best practices" guidelines to be developed for solar installation. The working group is seeking authorization to continue its meetings throughout 2017.

Rooftop net-metering returns to Nevada. The NVPUC voted on December 28 to reopen 6MW of installed capacity of rooftop solar energy systems for existing and new customer-generators under the prior net energy metering terms and rates in the Sierra Pacific Power service territory.

Oregon considers value of solar to the grid. The Oregon PUC has initiated an investigation into the resource value of solar in order to determine the credit value to pay subscribers to community solar projects. This will determine the methodology used to value community solar projects in the state, and which may be adapted to net metering customers in the state as well.



New Jersey - Electricity - Distribution Rates

Reference No.	BPU Docket Nos. ER16050428, E016060524 <i>(Opened on 06/16/2016)</i>
Description	<p>Electric utility Rockland Electric Co. (RECO) filed a distribution base rate case, seeking a \$9.644 million increase in distribution rates, which represents a 13.5% increase in order to achieve an overall rate of return of 7.79%.</p> <p>RECO is also proposal to install AMI infrastructure and smart meters throughout RECO’s entire service territory, covering parts of Bergen, Passaic and Sussex counties RECO would begin deployment of AMI infrastructure and smart meters in 2017 and finish this deployment by year-end 2019. RECO would be installing approximately 73,880 electric smart meters which would gather meter usage data measured in 5 minute intervals for commercial meters, and 15 minute intervals for residential meters, all of which will be delivered in near real time, i.e., every 15 minutes.</p>
Why It Matters	<p>Distribution rate cases can be significant opportunities for retail suppliers to raise issues of concern, particularly during settlement negotiations.</p> <p>The deployment of smart meters could allow suppliers to offer value-added services to customers, including time-of-use rates.</p>
Recent Action	BPU issued order (6/29/16), bifurcating the case into a standard distribution rate case and a proceeding to consider the smart grid/AMI petition raised by Rockland. The smart grid/AMI case will be presided over by Commissioner Chivukula while the distribution rate case will be handled by an administrative law judge as per usual.
Next Action	Awaiting next action.



New Jersey - Renewable Energy

Reference No.	NJ Utilities SREC II Financing Program <i>(Opened on 12/17/2015)</i>
Description	Utilities Atlantic City Electric, Jersey Central Power & Light, and Rockland Electric Company have issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) to select solar projects with which to enter into contracts for the purchase of SRECs.
Why It Matters	Opportunity to sell SRECs in the NJ market.
Recent Action	Round 5 bids are under evaluation and the winning bidder will be announced in 2/17 (12/29/16).
Next Action	Selections will be announced after the 2/22/17 BPU meeting.



New Jersey - Renewable Energy

Reference No.	NJCEP Strategic Plan Development <i>(Opened on 12/02/2016)</i>
Description	New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) is developing a strategic plan that will serve as a roadmap for the design and implementation of programs beginning in fiscal year 2018 (7/1/17 - 6/30/18). Key steps in creating the plan include the articulation of key objectives for NJCEP by the BPU and the development of operating principles to help shape program design and budget allocations.
Why It Matters	The BPU is seeking input from stakeholders who have been active NJCEP participants to establish the goals of the program whose overall mission is to provide programs will maximize the benefits delivered to New Jersey's ratepayers.
Recent Action	Focus group meetings held on single family and low-rise multi-family residential new construction, and government, municipal, small business, and large C&I customer energy efficiency (12/16/16, 12/19/16).
Next Action	The next focus group will be meeting on low-income energy efficiency issues from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET on 1/26/17. A call-in number (888.273.3658 code 7773306) will be open during the focus groups for those that wish to monitor the discussions. There will not be an opportunity to comment via the phone line. Informal comments may be submitted to strategicplan@njcleanenergy.com .



New Jersey - Renewable Energy

Reference No.	NJCEP Renewable Energy Committee <i>(Opened on 09/01/2016)</i>
Description	New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) promotes increased energy efficiency and the use of clean, renewable sources of energy including solar, wind, geothermal, and sustainable biomass. The Renewable Energy Committee works with public stakeholders to further the program's renewable goals.
Why It Matters	Offers financial incentives for renewable energy investment to residential, commercial, and municipal customers.
Recent Action	Next meeting of the Renewable Energy Committee scheduled (1/13/17).
Next Action	Next meeting of the Renewable Energy Committee scheduled for 1:00-3:30 p.m. on 2/14/17



New Jersey - Smart Grid

Reference No.	Town Center DER Microgrid Feasibility Study <i>(Opened on 07/29/2016)</i>
Description	BPU issued an order on 6/29/16 establishing the Town Center DER Microgrid Feasibility Study incentive program and budget.
Why It Matters	State interest in increasing the use of microgrid technologies to improve the grid’s resiliency and reliability in the event of a major storm.
Recent Action	BPU Staff sent email notification to join distribution list for the DER microgrid stakeholder process (12/18/16).
Next Action	Interested parties should submit names, affiliate, and areas of interest (e.g., regulatory, financing, technical) to TCDERmicrogrid@bpu.nj.gov to be added to the distribution list for the stakeholder process. Stakeholder meetings will be open to the public and the agenda for the meetings will be posted on the BPU and NJCEP websites.



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