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Date: July 11, 2012

To: Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities

From: Dr. Jonathan Raab (MA DG WG Facilitator)

Re: Second Monthly Report on DG Working Group

The Working Group has held three Plenary Sessions and a fourth is scheduled for tomorrow, July 12. We have also launched two Subcommittees—1) Processes, Timelines, and Costs; and 2) Technical issues. The Subcommittees have each met one time separately, and there was one combined Subcommittee meeting last week to accommodate vacations scheduled around the July 4th holiday.

We organized and consolidated the interested stakeholders (over 150 individuals and 70 organizations/companies/agencies into 19 formal representatives (with alternates) covering the state agency, utility, DG provider, and customer clusters. The Working Group finalized its groundrules at the 2nd Plenary.

The Working Group has done extensive joint fact finding to better understand the problems and challenges it hopes to fix, and to examine how other states are tackling these issues, including:

- 1) Extensive analysis of the Massachusetts DG data base maintained by DOER with monthly updates from the utility to better pinpoint where and why “delay” is occurring
- 2) Presentations by the utilities, DG community, and customers about their experiences with the current DG interconnection process—again to better understand the sources of delay and other challenges
- 3) Presentation by Bob Grace of SEA on the likely drivers for DG in Massachusetts—to spearhead a conversation among the Working Group members about the amount and type of DG that might be expected in the future
- 4) Presentation by ISO New England on the interface between the MA DG interconnection process and the ISO interconnection process (July 13th)

- 5) Presentation by IREC on how other leading DG states (e.g., CA, HI, and NJ) are tackling some of the issues that the Working Group has identified for potential improvements (July 12th)

Substantively, the Working Group has identified the following five areas to examine carefully, and seek improvements:

- 1) Pre-Application/Application Process (including a pre-application feasibility check)
- 2) Managing Stale Projects
- 3) Multiple Projects on a Single Feeder
- 4) Standard Track and Large Projects
- 5) Track Segmentation

The Working Group has been using a spreadsheet-based tool to flesh out potential design components to address to each of the five areas, and has been brainstorming potential options to address each design component. At the 4th Plenary on July 12th we will continue to discuss the various options and get feedback on Working Group members' preferences and priorities among the various options in each area. From there we will move to developing comprehensive solution packages that will be fine-tuned through negotiations in our final two months of Subcommittee and Plenary sessions.

A spreadsheet that shows the five areas, the various design components, and the options under discussion can be found at our website along with the PowerPoint presentations and meeting summaries from each Plenary Session.

<http://massdg.raabassociates.org/index.asp>

We will submit the next monthly report by August 11th.

Please let us know if you need any additional information or have questions.