

Distributed Generation Board Meeting

Monday, March 27, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

This meeting will be held in-person in:
**Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02901**

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources at Abigail Hasenfus at abigail.hasenfus@energy.ri.gov at least three (3) business days prior to the hearing so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of January Minutes [VOTE]
3. Review of 2023 Ceiling Prices Reconciliation Budget for SEA [VOTE]
4. OER Update on 2024 Ceiling Price Development Process
5. OER Update on REG 2024 PY process
6. Update on 2023 REG Docket
7. Public Comment
8. Adjournment

While the Distributed Generation Board will provide a virtual streaming option (login details at end of agenda) for the public, if there are technical issues with the streaming service at the start or during the meeting, the Board's in-person meetings will continue pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

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Distributed Generation Board Meeting

Monday, March 27, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

This meeting will be held in-person in:
**Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02901**

Meeting Minutes

In-person attendees: Harry Oakley, John McCann, Chris Kearns, Laura Bartsch, Sam Bradner, Sheila Dormody, Abigail Hasenfus, Shauna Beland, William Owen, Jennifer Hawkins, Mark Kravatz

Virtual attendees: Ali Atash, Tobin Armstrong, Carrie Gill, Jim Kennerly, Twiggy Mendenhall

1. Call to Order

Ms. Bartsch called the meeting to order at 3:04 P.M

2. Approval of January Minutes [VOTE]

Ms. Bartsch entertained a motion to approve the January DG Board meeting minutes. Mr. Bradner made the motion, and Ms. Dormody seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. Kravatz and Ms. Hawkins joined the meeting after the vote for January meeting minutes.

Mr. Kravatz asked to amend the minutes to reflect these changes for a revote at the April DG Board meeting. The board agreed to revisit the minutes in April. Ms. Bartsch entertained a motion to rescind previous approval of meetings minutes. Mr. McCann made the motion and Mr. Bradner seconded. All voted in favor.

3. Update on 2023 REG Docket

Mr. Kearns provided an update on 22-39-REG. The PUC approved the docket proceeding process and recommendations for 2023 program year. The small-scale solar program opens up on April 1st and will be open through March 31st of next year.

4. Review of 2023 Ceiling Prices Reconciliation Budget for SEA [VOTE]

Mr. Kearns overviewed the memo prepared by Sustainable Energy Advantage that was provided to the Board on the 2023 Ceiling Price Reconciliation Budget. The memo can be found as part of the March Board materials. SEA requested a proposed budget of \$79,120 to support the development of the 2023 PY ceiling prices. This request is comprised of \$65,000 to complete the contracted scope of work, as well as an additional \$14,120 to ensure sufficient funding for rebuttal testimony and related data requests, which was not budgeted as part of the contracted scope of work.

Ms. Dormody asked if OER could provide a legislative update at the April Board Meeting.

Ms. Bartsch entertained a motion to approve the 2023 Ceiling Prices Reconciliation Budget for SEA. Mr. McCann made the motion and Mr. Oakley seconded. All voted in favor.

5. OER Update on 2024 Ceiling Price Development Process

Mr. Kearns provides update on the 2024 ceiling price development process. We will start program framework with SEA together over the next several weeks, usually starts in mid-to-late May. SEA will release several drafts of ceiling prices through spring, final ceiling prices released in the fall and

6. OER Update on REG 2024 PY process

This agenda item is duplicative of Agenda item 4.

7. Public Comment

Ms. Bartsch opened the floor for public comment at 3:18 PM. No Public comments were made.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Bartsch requested a motion to adjourn at 3:21 PM. Ms. Hawkins made the motion and Mr. Bradner seconded. All voted in favor.

Distributed Generation Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

This meeting will be held in-person in:
DOA Conference Room 2A, Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02901

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources at Abigail Hasenfus at abigail.hasenfus@energy.ri.gov at least three (3) business days prior to the hearing so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of October Meeting Minutes [VOTE]
3. DEM Guidance Document and Discussion on “Core Forest” Determinations for Solar Developments
4. Consideration and Vote on Final Draft of Megawatt Allocation Plan [VOTE]
5. Consideration and Vote on Final Draft of Ceiling Prices [VOTE]
6. Public Comment
7. Adjournment

While the Distributed Generation Board will provide a virtual streaming option (login details at end of agenda) for the public, if there are technical issues with the streaming service at the start or during the meeting, the Board's in-person meetings will continue pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

Topic: November DG Board Meeting

Time: Nov 14, 2023 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84020903475>

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Distributed Generation Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

This meeting will be held in-person in:
DOA Conference Room 2A, Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02901

Meeting Minutes

In-Person Attendees: John McCann, Laura Bartsch, Shauna Beland, Chris Kearns, Sam Bradner, Erica Russell-Salk, Mark Kravatz, Harry Oakley, Ali Atash,

Virtual Attendees: Jim Kennerly, Tobin Armstrong, Ryan Mulcahey, Lado Kurdgelashvili, Karen Bradbury, Matthew Sullivan, Carrie Gill, Kenneth Michael Campbell,

1. Call to Order

Ms. Bartsch called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

2. Approval of October Meeting Minutes [VOTE]

Ms. Bartsch entertained a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Mr. Bradner made the motion and Mr. Oakley seconded. All voted in favor.

3. DEM Guidance Document and Discussion on “Core Forest” Determinations for Solar Developments

Mr. Mulcahey initiated discussion on core forest determinations for solar developments. The Core Forest Guidance released by DEM outlines the department’s role in implementation of new solar siting legislation. Public comment period ended on Friday, November 24.

4. Consideration and Vote on Final Draft of Megawatt Allocation Plan [VOTE]

Ms. Beland initiated a discussion on the final draft 2024-2026 PY Megawatt (MW) allocation plan. Mr. Kravatz asked what the total MW allocation for the REG program has been in previous years. Board members engaged in a discussion about previous allocation plans and workforce development needed to support robust program participation.

Ms. Bartsch entertained motion to approve the final draft of MW allocation plan as allocated in 2024. Mr. Oakley made the motion and Mr. McCann seconded. All voted in favor.

5. Consideration and Vote on Final Draft of Ceiling Prices [VOTE]

Mr. Kennerly engaged board members in discussion of final draft of ceiling prices for classes below 5MW, above 5MW, and non-solar classes. Ms. Bartsch posed a question about CRDG ceiling prices for the 2023 PY.

Board members asked clarifying questions about various changes to the REG program, including the 3-year process, increased MW allocation plan in response to state law, and ceiling price adjustment mechanisms. Board members noted concerns about the literary review used in the development of ceiling price adders for projects requiring remediation.

Ms. Bartsch entertained a motion to approve the final recommended 2024-2026 ceiling prices and associated adders for projects requiring remediation as indicated in the presentation provided by SEA. Mr. McCann made the motion and Mr. Oakley seconded. All voted in favor.

6. Public Comment

Ms. Bartsch opened the floor for public comment. Ms. Russell Salk provided comment on behalf of Rhode Island Energy. The Company will submit public comment on DEM's Core Forest Draft Guidance. The redlines for tariffs and solicitation and process rules were shared with the Board, and the Company filed with the PUC on November 15th. In regard to the remediation adders, RI Energy is mindful of impacts to ratepayers but does not intend to be a barrier towards the execution of adders.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47PM.

Distributed Generation Board Meeting

Monday, October 23, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

This meeting will be held in-person in:
DOA Conference Room 2A, Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02901

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources at Abigail Hasenfus at abigail.hasenfus@energy.ri.gov at least three (3) business days prior to the hearing so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of September Meeting Minutes [VOTE]
3. RI Energy Presentation of Second Open Enrollment Results
4. RIE Preview and Discussion of Potential PY24 Tariff and Rule Provisions
5. OER Update on 2024-2026 REG Program Ceiling Prices and Megawatt Allocation Plan Development
6. Public Comment
7. Adjournment

While the Distributed Generation Board will provide a virtual streaming option (login details at end of agenda) for the public, if there are technical issues with the streaming service at the start or during the meeting, the Board's in-person meetings will continue pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: October DG Board Meeting

Time: Oct 23, 2023 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81288053644>

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Distributed Generation Board Meeting

Monday, October 23, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

This meeting will be held in-person in:
DOA Conference Room 2A, Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02901

Meeting Minutes

In-person attendees: Karen Stewart, John McCann, Laura Bartsch, Harry Oakley, Sam Bradner, Chris Kearns, Erica Russell-Salk, Abigail Hasenfus, Carrie Gill, Jennifer Hawkins

Virtual Attendees: Emily Ferrara, Jacqueline Petrocchi, Matt Sullivan

1. Call to Order

Ms. Bartsch called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

2. Approval of September Meeting Minutes [VOTE]

Ms. Bartsch entertained a motion to approve the September Meeting minutes. Mr. McCann made the motion and Mr. Oakley seconded. All voted in favor.

3. RI Energy Presentation of Second Open Enrollment Results

Dr. Gill presented the second open enrollment results. She noted a larger capacity in PY2023 than PY2022, with a fewer count of projects awarded in PY2023. Mr. Bradner asked for clarification on a comparison between 2022 and 2023 2nd open enrollment results.

Dr. Gill noted the current small-scale enrollment totals to date; 61 projects totaling 462kW DC.

4. RIE Preview and Discussion of Potential PY24 Tariff and Rule Provisions

Dr. Gill engaged in discussion with board members about the potential changes to tariff and rule provisions for PY2024. While tariff amendments are typically proposed in November, RI Energy opened the discussion of potential draft revisions and welcomed feedback. Mr. Bradner asked if the industry can provide stakeholder input. Dr. Gill confirmed, industry feedback is highly welcomed.

Board members engaged in a discussion about unintended consequences that could arise from potential revisions and developing parallel processes across RI solar programs to streamline adding panels to an existing system.

5. OER Update on 2024-2026 REG Program Ceiling Prices and Megawatt Allocation Plan Development

Mr. Kearns provided an update on the 2024-2026 ceiling prices and megawatt allocation plan. SEA distributed the second draft of ceiling prices and incentive rate adders, and issued a request for comments incentive-rate adders and siting considerations for the potential 2024-2026 program year period, due October 31st. The request for comments on a straw proposal for potential triggers for changes to 2024-2026 ceiling prices was also due October 31st.

SEA's third stakeholder meeting was held on October 24th. SEA presented and discussed with stakeholders its second draft of all potential REG Ceiling Prices and incentive-rate adders, including those enabled by the recently-enacted Chapter 300 – An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Net Metering.

6. Public Comment

Ms. Bartsch opened floor for public comment at 3:48 PM.

Matt Sullivan from Green Development LLC sought further clarification on items from both presentations. He asked about 2022 versus 2023 year-to-date enrollments and project segmentation tariff revisions. Mr. Sullivan asked if the DG Board will be considering or suggesting an expansion to the 36-month Certificate of Eligibility (COE). Dr. Gill noted the new siting law may already extend the COE.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Bartsch entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bradner made the motion and Mr. Oakley seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 PM.

Distributed Generation Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

This meeting will be held in-person in:
DOA Conference Room 2B, Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02901

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources at Abigail Hasenfus at abigail.hasenfus@energy.ri.gov at least three (3) business days prior to the hearing so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. RI Energy Presentation of First Open Enrollment Results
3. Approval of July Meeting Minutes [VOTE]
4. Approval of August 21 Meeting Minutes [VOTE]
5. OER Update on REG Quality Assurance Plan 2023
6. OER Update on 2024-2026 Draft Megawatt Allocation Plan
7. OER Update on Implementation of 2024-2026 Ceiling Prices
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

While the Distributed Generation Board will provide a virtual streaming option (login details at end of agenda) for the public, if there are technical issues with the streaming service at the start or during the meeting, the Board's in-person meetings will continue pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

Topic: September DG Board Meeting

Time: Sep 20, 2023 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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Distributed Generation Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

In person attendees: John McCann, Mark Kravatz, Carrie Gill, Harry Oakley, Abigail Hasenfus, Chris Kearns, Laura Bartsch

Virtual attendees: Twiggy Mendenhall, Hannah Morini

1. Call to Order

Ms. Bartsch called the meeting to order at 3:17 PM

2. RI Energy Presentation of First Open Enrollment Results

Dr. Gill provided a presentation on REG first open enrollment results. Mr. Kravatz asked if open enrollment results use data from January 2023 to the present, or from one full year since the presentation was originally dated in July 2022. Dr. Gill clarified the period of first open enrollment for 2023. Dr. Gill also noted that through September 25, 2023, fifty-four small-scale projects totaling 394kW had enrolled in the current REG PY.

3. Approval of July Meeting Minutes [VOTE]

Ms. Bartsch entertained a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Mr. McCann made the motion, Mr. Oakley seconded. All voted in favor.

4. Approval of August 21st Meeting Minutes [VOTE]

Ms. Bartsch entertained motion to approve the August 21st meeting minutes as corrected. Mr. Kravatz made the motion, Mr. McCann seconded. All voted in favor.

5. OER Update on REG Quality Assurance Plan 2023

Ms. Hasenfus provided an update on the status of the 2023 quality assurance plan for the REG program. The quality assurance program was paused because of the small number of projects that have been awarded certificates of eligibility in the small scale and commercial scale categories.

6. OER Update on Implementation of 2024-2026 Megawatt Allocation Plan

Mr. Kearns provided an update on the implementation of the 2024-2026 Megawatt Allocation Plan. Recognizing recent statutory changes to the REG program, the new plan addresses allocations over a three-year horizon. These changes are subject to regulatory approval. Mr. Kravatz asked if SEA provided input into the allocation plan. SEA provided input and feedback for both state and regional perspectives.

Dr. Gill asked about the rationale for increasing the allocation for small-scale over the three-year horizon, rather than making the allocation consistent across PYs. Mr. Kearns explained that OER is open to feedback which can be provided during the public comment period. These numbers can also be adjusted and are subject to dynamic market-based variables such as interest rates.

7. OER Update on Implementation of 2024-2026 Ceiling Prices

Mr. Kearns provided an update on ceiling price process. Traditional ceiling price categories were released for public comment, as well as ceiling prices for projects over 5MW to reflect statutory changes to REG. The second draft of ceiling prices is expected to be released in October, and final ceiling prices distributed to the Board in November. Mr. Kravatz asked if entities besides DPUC historically provide comment on ceiling prices. Mr. Kearns explained that a plethora of inputs dictate the CREST model's outputs, and any disputes on outputs should be based on inputs. As a result, stakeholder comments have reduced in recent years.

8. Public Comment

Ms. Bartsch opened the floor for public comment at 3:46 PM.

Ms. Morini spoke first on behalf of Green Development LLC. Ms. Morini provided rationale to Dr. Gill's previous question about small-scale allocated capacity. Ms. Morini then explained several shortcomings of the REG program and their effect on commercial-scale developments. The industry hasn't received impact studies for projects over 1MW in over two years, which has prevented application to REG for these projects. Ms. Morini's second point referenced the cost of debt for fixed contract prices over a twenty-year period. The cost of debt has been too high for large projects to justify the income from REG. At a 13-cent contract, for example, banks won't let borrowers borrow enough to fund the project. Third, because the new siting law limits available space for new large-scale projects, there will be fewer projects being constructed across RI. Ms. Morini explained that prior to the passage of the solar siting law, the commercial solar industry was "fighting over scraps at bottom of the barrel pricing."

Ms. Mendenhall spoke on behalf of Ecogy Energy LLC and echoed Ms. Morini's concerns, especially Ms. Morini's initial remarks which responded to Dr. Gill's question about small-scale uptake. Ms. Mendenhall asked the Board why the allocation plan doesn't anticipate more growth in the small-scale program if the introduction of adders can help to facilitate more beneficial project development. Ms. Mendenhall spoke about projects in Connecticut as an example and acknowledged Mr. Kearns initial response to Dr. Gill's question.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Bartsch entertained a motion to adjourn at 3:54 PM. Mr. Kravatz made the motion, Mr. Oakley seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 PM.