STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE:	**BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT**	**:**	
	NET METERING TARIFF ADVICE	**:**	**DOCKET 25-02-EL**
		:	

BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT'S RESPONSES TO THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS' FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS DIRECTED TO BIUD
Revised and Reissued January 15, 2025

DIV 1-1. Please provide Block Island Utility District's ("BIUD") peak load for calendar year 2024. Include the date and time it occurred.

Response:

BIUD's Peak Load in 2024 was 5.649 MW, which was set on August 2, 2024, at hour ending 19.

Prepared by: Jeffery M. Wright, BIUD President

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DIV 1-2. Please provide the lowest load that occurred during the period 2020 – 2024. Include the date and time it occurred.

Response:

BIUD's lowest load during the period 1/1/2020 through 12/31/2024 was 826 kW set on April 2, 2023, at hour ending 11.

Prepared by: Jeffery M. Wright, BIUD President

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IN RE:	**BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT NET METERING TARIFF ADVICE**	**:** **:** **:**	**DOCKET 25-02-EL**

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DIV 1-3. Please provide the installed nameplate net metering capacity as of December 31, 2024.

Response:

BIUD currently has 355.07 kW of installed net metering.

The following statistics are posted on the BIUD website.

- BIUD Summer Peak (kw) – 5,649
- Total Net Metering Allowed @ 10% Cap (kw) – 564.9
- Current Amount Installed (kw) – 355.07
- Current Amount Under Review, Approved and or Under Construction (kw) – 75
- Remaining Capacity (kw) – 134.83
- Current Maximum Size Project Allowed (based on 10% or remaining capacity) (kw) – 13.48
- Current Number of In-Service Net Metering Facilities – 98

Prepared by: Jeffery M. Wright, BIUD President

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DIV 1-4. What is the nameplate rating of the largest current net-metering account?

Response:

30kW which is installed at the Block Island School.

Prepared by: Jeffery M. Wright, BIUD President

DIV 1-5. In Docket 5192, BIUD explained two concerns with high penetration of solar generation during times of low load. The concerns included system instability when serving the system with diesel generation, and not being able to back-feed to the mainland when connected to the submarine cable. Do these same concerns exist with raising the net metering cap to 15%? If so, please explain how BIUD will address them. If not, please explain why these issues are no longer a concern.

Response:

No risk of back feeding or instability when connected to the submarine cable:

Adding 5% more solar generation capacity, or an additional 282.45 kW, does not present a stability concern while connected to the cable and does not risk creating reverse flow on the cable. Our lowest load period in 2024 occurred on March 14 at hour ending 15 with a load of 867 kW. Even with the immediate addition of 282 kW, there would be 585 kW of flow coming to the BIUD system on this particular day.

Instability when disconnected from submarine cable and using backup diesel generators:

BIUD is approaching a solar generation level that could create system instability challenges during light load periods, particularly on partly cloudy days when disconnected from the cable and relying solely on backup diesel generators. Intermittent solar generation during such periods may impact diesel generator stability. To address this, BIUD is prepared to curtail solar generation as needed to maintain system reliability and ensure stable operation of the diesel generators.

Procedure for curtailing solar generation to maintain system reliability:

BIUD aims to maximize on-island renewable generation to minimize fuel consumption during a cable outage. This means being prepared to manage "too much" solar. Our approach prioritizes minimizing solar curtailments while ensuring fairness to net metering members while providing the greatest benefit to all BIUD members.

BIUD currently plans to curtail its own rooftop solar generation first, as this provides a substantial reduction, amounting to approximately 94 kW at peak generation.

Remote disconnect meters have been installed in all new net metering systems under the net metering tariff. While a specific curtailment procedure for these systems is not yet in place, BIUD will develop a curtailment plan for implementation in 2025. The curtailment plan will be thoroughly vetted in BIUD Board meetings with input from members to ensure transparency and equity.

I intend to suggest that the Board adopt a rotational curtailment system. This would involve configuring blocks of 25-50 kW worth of net metering projects within our AMI system. By rotating among these blocks, we can ensure fairness and limit curtailments to the minimum amount required to maintain stability.

Prepared by: Jeffery M. Wright, BIUD President