

Power Plant Research Advisory Committee Meeting
June 12, 2019
Meeting Notes

Attendees

BGE	John Quinn
Brookfield Renewables	Chris Ercoli
CGR Partners	Moira Cyphers
Delmarva Emergency Training Concepts	Brett VanZant
Desner Group	Floyd DesChamps
Exelon	Heidi Hawkins
Future of Energy Initiative	Alex Pavlak, Harry Winsor
Kent County Preservation Alliance	Janet Christensen-Lewis
Maryland Association of Counties	Les Knapp
Maryland Clean Energy Center	Kathy Magruder
Maryland Dept. of Agriculture	Cassie Shirk
Maryland Dept. of Commerce	Paul Spies
Maryland Dept. of Environment	Angelo Bianco, Ben Grumbles, Bill Paul, Gary Setzer
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources	Bruce Michael
Maryland Dept. of Planning	Michael Bayer
Maryland Dept. of Transportation	Ian Beam, Richard Louis
Maryland Energy Administration	Landon Fahrig, Rich Mallory, Ryan Opsal, Greg Williams
Maryland Farm Bureau	Colby Ferguson
Maryland Forest Service	Marian Honeczy
Maryland Historical Trust	Beth Cole, Dixie Henry, Natalie Loukianoff
Maryland Office of the Attorney General	Sandra McLemore, Steve Talson
Maryland Office of the People's Counsel	Bill Fields
Maryland Public Service Commission	Craig Taborsky
Maryland Sierra Club	David Smedick
MDV-SEIA	David Murray
PEPCO	Ivan Lanier, Anne Lindner
University of Maryland	Andrew Hayes, Mark Castro
Urban Grid Company	Kevin Clark, Ben Spear
Utility Scale Solar Energy Coalition	Marni Carroll

PPRP and Contractors

PPRP, PPRP Emeritus	Susan Gray, Fred Kelley, Bob Sadzinski, Shawn Seaman, John Sherwell, Helen Stewart, David Tancabel
ERM	Connie Faustini, Diane Mountain, Rob Sawyer,
Exeter Associates	Kevin Porter, Rebecca Widiss
Versar	Steve Schreiner, Brennan Smith, Don Strebel

These notes document the Q&A exchanges that followed each formal presentation. (The presentations themselves are available on PPRP's website: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Pages/committee.aspx>.) Where possible, speakers have been identified.

CPCN Cases – Fred Kelley, (PPRP)

- A. Pavlak (FEI): How is projected EV growth being factored into load forecasts?
 - K. Porter (Exeter): It should show up in the PSC's annual 10-Year Plan report.
 - B. Fields (OPC): The 10-Year Plan doesn't address resource siting. This topic was floated, but not pursued, under the PC 44 proceedings.
- D. Smedick (Sierra Club): How are the state's climate change goals addressed during the CPCN process, since they are not explicitly listed as factors to be considered?
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): Part of PPRP's overarching job is to help the state meet its energy-related goals. The various agencies consider these goals, but do not include these considerations in our official filing.
- K. Magruder (MCEC): Does PPRP still use findings from the 2016 *Long-term Electricity Report*? And are you going to update the *Electricity Fact Book*?
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): We've used the LTER in some of our subsequent studies. It's required per Executive Order every five years. The next version is due in 2021. The *Electricity Fact Book* is currently under review.

New Legislation Impacting PPRP – Helen S, (PPRP)

- Unknown: In developing the Clean and Renewables Energy Standard, is Gov. Hogan looking at small modular nuclear reactors and fusion energy?
 - B. Grumbles (MDE): He is looking at small reactors, yet also understands the importance of Calvert Cliffs.
- M. Carroll (USSEC): What's the status on regulations for PV pollinator habitats?
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): We have drafted regulations and a score card. We are almost ready to submit the regulations for public comment this summer.
- C. Ferguson (MFB): Who will address the prime farmland issue? It's going to hold up every PV project in the state. Will it be the PPRAC or the RPS Study Group?
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): This is a difficult question. There's no easy answer. It's not in PPRP's purview.
 - K. Magruder (MCEC): We should decide where we want PV and incentivize it there.
 - J. Christensen-Lewis (KCPA): If SB 744 had passed, a body would be addressing this issue.
 - D. Smedick (Sierra Club): I think that Committee Member Barve committed to having a summer workshop to make progress on this matter.

Maryland Historical Trust Requirements for Reviews of CPCN Applications – Dixie Henry and Natalie Loukianoff, (MHT)

- Unknown: Please explain how you work with local programs.
 - N. Loukianoff (MHT): We identify any certified local governments whose jurisdiction includes a proposed project and work with them.
- Unknown: Does MHT charge a fee?
 - N. Loukianoff (MHT): We don't charge fees. But the cultural consultant hired to conduct the studies we request will. We recommend getting multiple bids and we are willing to review them. We try to limit study areas to minimize costs.

Fire Safety Considerations for Solar Energy Facilities - Brett VanZant, (Delmarva Emergency Training Concepts, LLC)

- D. Strebel (ERM): What is the best shut-down technology for a PV facility?
 - B. VanZant (DETC): Ideally, PV facilities should have one switch, near the entrance, to turn off the entire facility.

Emerging Issues – David Tancabel, (PPRP)

Decommissioning

- D. Murray (MDV-SEIA): Does PPRP consider the salvage value of just PV panels or ground mounts and other equipment?
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): Most analyses that we've reviewed just consider panels.
- D. Smedick: (Sierra Club): What other states' have decommissioning standards?
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): New York requires a bond.
- Unknown: What's the timing for the PSC to look into this matter?
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): No specific timing. The PSC directed staff to open a rulemaking.
- M. Carroll (USSEC): How can the solar industry help?
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): Bring resources to the PSC. It should hear directly from industry.
- D. Henry: (MHT): We may need to consider the impacts of decommissioning on historical resources, such as the impact on historical resources from removing panels.

CPCN Extensions

- Unknown: Is this an issue primarily for solar?
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): So far, we've only seen CPCN extension requests for solar.
- D. Strebel (ERM): What's the difference between extension requests and modification requests?
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): Requesting an extension opens the entire application up to fresh scrutiny.

- D. Smedick (Sierra Club): You indicated that the CPCN deadline for construction is Year 3 and for operation is Year 4. Have you ever had a project start construction and then request an extension for operation?
 - Unknown: Maybe Great Bay. Because the CPCN doesn't contemplate phasing.
- Unknown: Is there a legal definition of construction?
 - Unknown: Meaningful construction of the facility, not just moving dirt around.

CPCN Waiver Requests

- B. Fields (OPC): How long does a CPCN really need to take? I think that's worth some thought in order to maintain control of the process.
 - David T (PPRP): The PSC and BGE asked this question too. It depends on the quality of the information we're provided. We did a 20-mile rebuild petition in 12 months.

RPS Report Update – Bob Sadzinski, (PPRP)

- M. Carroll (USSEC): When will webinars be held?
 - K. Porter (Exeter): Webinars will be scheduled once the Draft Report is completed.
- K. Magruder (MCEC): What are the top results of the *Interim RPS Report*?
 - B. Sadzinski (PPRP): We're falling behind on solar.
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): The findings from the *RPS Inventory Report*. Some industry objections to growth projections.
- C. Ferguson (MFB): How will the Final Report reflect the Clean Energy Jobs Act?
 - D. Tancabel (PPRP): We are not going to redo the work done to date. We will add the three new tasks in SB 516. The 100% RPS Study, due in 2024, will address additional topics.

Research Projects – Bob Sadzinski (PPRP) and Andrew Hayes, (UMD)

Egypt Road Long Term Water Quality Assessment

- M. Carroll (USSEC) – Is this study a requirement of the project?
 - Bob S (PPRP): Yes. It was agreed upon by developer, city, and DNR.

University of Maryland Mercury Monitoring-Water Quality Improvements Since the HAA

- D. Strebel (ERM): Are your findings the opposite of what we want for CO₂?
 - A. Hayes (UMD): In the long-term, planting trees may help to scrub the air, get the mercury into the soil.
- Unknown: Is the poultry litter pilot project still going?
 - Unknown: It shut down. The project's economics didn't work out.