

**NOTICE ESTABLISHING
DISTRIBUTED GENERATION WORKGROUP AND SETTING SCHEDULE**
Issued: March 8, 2017

In the Matter of Updating the Generic Standards for the Interconnection and Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities Established under Minn. Stat. §216B.1611

PUC Docket Number: E-999/CI-16-521

The Commission's January 24, 2017 Order requested the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the Department of Commerce, to convene a work group of appropriate size and composition, and may select a facilitator, to develop the record more fully. This notice includes: 1) establishment of the Distributed Generation Workgroup Roster of Participants, Alternates and Observers; 2) naming the facilitator; and 3) confirmation of the first meeting date, time and location.

The following 15 organizations are designated Distributed Generation Workgroup Participants:

| Organization | First | Last | Membership | Designation | Email |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Dept of Commerce | Sue | Peirce | Participant** | Lead | susan.peirce@state.mn.us |
| Dept of Commerce | Lise | Trudeau | Participant** | Lead | lise.trudeau@state.mn.us |
| Bright Green Consulting | Ross | Abbey | Participant | Lead | rossabbey@gmail.com |
| Dakota Electric | Jeff | Schoenecker | Participant | Lead | jschoenecker@dakotaelectric.com |
| Energy Freedom Coalition | Toba | Pearlman | Participant | Lead | epearlman@solarcity.com |
| Fresh Energy | Laura | Hannah | Participant | Lead | hannah@fresh-energy.org |
| Genie Solar Support | Donna | Pickard | Participant | Lead | dpickardgsss@gmail.com |
| Interstate Renewable Energy Council | Sky | Stanfield | Participant | Lead | stanfield@smwlaw.com |
| Minnesota Power | Mike | Pontius | Participant | Lead | mpontius@mnpower.com |
| Missouri River Energy System | Jeff | Peters | Participant | Lead | jeff.peters@mrenergy.com |
| MN Municipal Utilities Association | Robert | Jagusch | Participant | Lead | rjagusch@mmua.org |
| MN Energy Storage Alliance | Christine | Andrews | Participant | Lead | christineandrewsjd@gmail.com |
| MN Solar Energy Industry Association | David | Shaffer | Participant | Lead | dshaffer@mnseia.org |
| MN Rural Electric Association | Jim | Horan | Participant | Lead | jim@mrea.org |

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|------------------|---------|-----------|-------------|------|--|
| Otter Tail Power | Dean | Pawlowski | Participant | Lead | dpawlowski@otpc.com |
| Xcel Energy | Patrick | Dalton | Participant | Lead | patrick.l.dalton@xcelenergy.com |

** Commission staff and the facilitator will at times communicate with Department of Commerce staff on Workgroup process and planning as contemplated by the Commission's Order, but will not discuss the merits of party positions in the Workgroup or the record.

The following are recognized as Alternates to DG Workgroup Participants:

| Organization | First | Last | Membership | Designation | Email |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Energy Freedom Coalition | Michael | McCarty | Participant | Alternate | mmccarty@solarcity.com |
| Energy Freedom Coalition | Sarah | Walinga | Participant | Alternate | swalinga@solarcity.com |
| Dept of Commerce | Danielle | Winner | Participant | Alternate | danielle.winner@state.mn.us |
| Dakota Electric | Craig | Turner | Participant | Alternate | cturner@dakotaelectric.com |
| Dakota Electric | Doug | Larson | Participant | Alternate | dlarson@dakotaelectric.com |
| Energy Freedom Coalition | Jacob | Schlesinger | Participant | Alternate | jschlesinger@kfwlaw.com |
| Fresh Energy | Allen | Gleckner | Participant | Alternate | gleckner@fresh-energy.org |
| Environmental Law & Policy Center | Bradley | Klein | Participant | Alternate | bklein@elpc.org |
| Interstate Renewable Energy Council | Laura | Beaton | Participant | Alternate | beaton@smwlaw.com |
| Interstate Renewable Energy Council | Erika | McConnell | Participant | Alternate | mcconnell@smwlaw.com |
| Minnesota Power | Frank | Kornbaum | Participant | Alternate | fkornbaum@mnpower.com |
| Minnesota Power | Katelyn | Frye | Participant | Alternate | kfrye@mnpower.com |
| MN Energy Storage Alliance | Barb | Jacobs | Participant | Alternate | jaco0270@umn.edu |
| MN Solar Energy Industry Association | Liz | Lucente | Participant | Alternate | llucente@mNSEIA.org |
| MN Municipal Utilities Association | Bill | Black | Participant | Alternate | bblack@mmua.org |
| MN Rural Electric Association | Kristi | Robinson | Participant | Alternate | krobinson@star-energy.com |
| MN Rural Electric Association | Jeff | Triplett | Participant | Alternate | triplettj@powersystem.org |
| Missouri River Energy System | Derek | Bertsch | Participant | Alternate | derek.bertsch@mrenergy.com |
| Missouri River Energy System | Elizabeth | Wefel | Participant | Alternate | eawefel@flaherty-hood.com |
| Missouri River Energy System | Rob | Scott-Hovland | Participant | Alternate | rob.scott-hovland@mrenergy.com |
| Missouri River Energy System | Terry | Wolf | Participant | Alternate | terry.wolf@mrenergy.com |
| Otter Tail Power | David | Prazak | Participant | Alternate | dprazak@otpc.com |
| Xcel Energy | John | Harlander | Participant | Alternate | john.c.harlander@xcelenergy.com |
| Xcel Energy | Alan | Urban | Participant | Alternate | alan.m.urban@xcelenergy.com |

Participants agree to the following:

- 1) Participate in the written comments round in advance of the first work group meeting (due March 16, 2017);
- 2) Prepare for and attend the meetings and conference calls consistently throughout each phase (see tentative schedule below);
- 3) Engage actively and respectfully in constructive dialogue during the issue discussions;
- 4) Review in a timely manner workgroup materials distributed by commission staff provided via work group listserv or e-dockets;
- 5) Develop, when invited, as an organization or a member of an ad hoc subgroup, presentations and/or subtopic materials for consideration by the workgroup at upcoming meetings; and,
- 6) Work toward agreement where possible and, where not possible, clearly articulate differences.

For size and composition of the Workgroup, several parties who requested Participant status are assigned as Observers instead. These parties may choose to be re-designated as an Alternate to one or more Participants if they and the Participant so choose. Participants are encouraged to engage with Observers, other Participants and interested parties and not solely express their organization's interests.

The Commission recognizes the following Observers:

| Organization | First | Last | Membership | Email |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--|
| Carr Creek Electric | Chris | Jarosch | Observer | chris@energyexperts.solar |
| Center for Energy and Environment | Mike | Bull | Observer | mbull@mncee.org |
| Citizens Utility Board | Annie | Levenson-Falk | Observer | annielf@cubminnesota.org |
| Clean Energy Economy MN | Logan | O'Grady | Observer | logrady@cleanenergyeconomymn.org |
| Innovative Power Systems | Ralph | Jacobson | Observer | ralphj@ips-solar.com |
| Institute for Local Self-Reliance | John | Farrell | Observer | jfarrell@ilsr.org |
| Institute for Local Self-Reliance | Karlee | Weinmann | Observer | kweinmann@ilsr.org |
| MN Conservative Energy Forum | Mike | Franklin | Observer | mfranklin@mncef.com |
| MN Conservative Energy Forum | David | Strom | Observer | dstrom@mncef.org |
| NextEra Energy Resources | Soria | Talbot | Observer | soria.talbot@nexteraenergy.com |
| NextEra Energy Resources | Carrie | Hitt | Observer | carrie.hitt@nexteraenergy.com |
| Sundial Solar | Jon | Kramer | Observer | sundialjon@gmail.com |
| Sundial Solar | Art | Crowell | Observer | acrowell@sundialsolarenergy.com |
| Sundial Solar | Burnell | Lauer | Observer | blauer.sundial@gmail.com |
| Witwright Institute LLC | Donald | Hanson | Observer | dfhanson@ieee.org |

Observers are encouraged and welcome to attend and monitor meetings as their schedules permit and communicate their ideas or concerns to Participants for discussion or consideration by the Workgroup. Observers will receive Workgroup materials and may participate in written comment periods and during public comment in the Workgroup meetings. Interested parties can request to be added to the Observer list and receive future Workgroup materials by e-filing a request at any point in the process. Commission staff will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate future requests to be Observers and to respond to additional public requests for Workgroup materials.

Background: On January 24, 2017, the Commission issued its Order Establishing Workgroup and Process to Update and Improve State Interconnection Standards in Docket No. 16-521.

On February 14, 2017, the Commission issued a notice soliciting workgroup members with a March 1, 2017 deadline for requests. The Commission received requests for 55 individuals from 26 organizations to participate in the workgroup as Participants, Alternates/Technical Staff, and Observers. The updated service list for the docket and email listserv for the workgroup includes all respondents. The Commission selected 15 organizations to serve as Participants and 11 organizations as Observers. As dually noticed on February 14, 2017, the expectation **is all Participant organizations file comments in the initial comment period due March 16, 2017.** All interested parties, including Observers, are welcome to submit comments.

The Commission selected Carl Linvill, Regulatory Assistance Project, to serve as the facilitator of the in-person work group meetings. Michelle Rosier, Commission staff, serves as the primary point of contact for the docket for both workgroup members and the public.

The first meeting of the DG Workgroup is **Friday, April 7th from 9am – 2pm in the Public Utilities Commission’s Large Hearing Room.** An agenda will be sent via email to Participants, Alternates and Observers in advance.

Below is the tentative Workgroup schedule:

Phase 1 – Interconnection Process

| In-Person Meeting | Webinar/Teleconference |
|---|--|
| All meetings are tentatively scheduled for Fridays 9am-2pm in the PUC Large Hearing Room | All webinar/teleconference are tentatively scheduled for Fridays 9am – 12pm |
| April 7 – confirmed. Develop and clarify areas of agreement and outstanding issues | May 5 |
| June 2 | June 23 |
| July 28 | Aug 25 |

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Sept 15 | Oct 6 |
| Nov 3 | Dec 1 |

March 2018 (tentative) Notice for Comment on draft staff Phase 1 summary and recommendations

May 2018 (tentative) Agenda meeting for consideration and decision on new Interconnection Process (Phase 1)

Phase 2 – Technical Requirements

Dec 2017–Oct 2018 (tentative) Notice for comment; workgroup meetings; conference calls

Nov 2018 (tentative) Notice for Comment on draft staff Phase 2 summary and recommendations

Feb 2019 (tentative) Agenda meeting for consideration and decision on new Interconnection Technical Requirements (Phase 2)

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission’s electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission’s website - mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (16) and the docket number (521), select *Search*.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Michelle Rosier, at michelle.rosier@state.mn.us or 651-201-2212.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2204

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