

In the Matter of the Commission’s Review)
of Chapter 4901:1-22 Ohio Administrative)
Code Regarding Interconnection Services) Case No. 12-2051-EL-ORD
)
)

In a January 16, 2013 Entry, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“Commission” or “PUCO”) outlined further proposed revisions to Chapter 4901:1-22 of the Ohio Administrative Code (“OAC”), the Commission rules regarding interconnection services, and requested supplemental comments addressing these issues. Staff’s proposal includes revisions to the method for establishing eligibility for Level 2 expedited review and additional technical screens for evaluating projects that fail one or more of the initial Level 2 review criteria. The Environmental Law & Policy Center (“ELPC”), the Ohio Environmental Council (“OEC”), the Solar Energy Industries Association (“SEIA”), and the Vote Solar Initiative, collectively “Solar Advocates,” support Staff’s proposed rule changes and endorse the comments filed by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (“IREC”) in this docket.

1

generation has overwhelmed outdated rules. Finally, they will also align Ohio with the policy direction indicated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”),¹ putting Ohio on the forefront of distributed generation and interconnection issues.

For example, Staff proposes “a new method of establishing eligibility for Level 2 expedited review.”² This approach would “scale the capacity limit to reflect other system design characteristics at the point of interconnection that impact the safety and reliability of generator interconnection.”³ The Solar Advocates support the values in the table on page 2 of the Entry and agree with Staff that the new rules “increase[] expedited treatment eligibility . . . without compromising the safety and reliability of the distribution system.”⁴

The Solar Advocates also support the three additional technical screens proposed as part of the supplemental review process. The additional screens would “facilitate the evaluation of projects that fail one or more of the initial Level 2 expedited review,” especially the 15 percent capacity limit threshold, which, as Staff notes, is commonly failed.⁵ These additional screens will streamline the review process and increase efficiency and the preservation of resources while still addressing safety and reliability concerns. As with the proposed revisions to Level 2 eligibility criteria, the additional screens are consistent with FERC’s January 17 notice of proposed rulemaking.⁶

Staff’s proposed rules are a positive step that will put Ohio at the forefront of interconnection issues. The Solar Advocates support these steps and believe the rules will

¹ *Small Generator Interconnection Agreements and Procedures* (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking), 142 FERC ¶ 61,049 (January 17, 2013), *available at* <http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/common/opennat.asp?fileID=13155520>.

² Case No. 12-2051, Entry at 1 (January 16, 2013).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.* at 2.

⁵ *Id.* at 3.

⁶ Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 142 FERC ¶ 61,049 at ¶¶ 35-40.

address barriers to interconnection and pave the way for continued growth in the distributed generation market in Ohio.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nicholas McDaniel
Nicholas McDaniel
Environmental Law & Policy Center
1207 Grandview Avenue, Suite 201
Columbus, OH 43212
P: 614-488-3301
F: 614-487-7510
NMcDaniel@elpc.org

Nolan Moser
Ohio Environmental Council
1207 Grandview Avenue, Suite 201
Columbus, OH 43212-3449
Nolan@theoec.org

Peter Olmsted
The Vote Solar Initiative
529 West Chestnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17603
717-305-0045
peter@votesolar.org

Carrie Cullen Hitt
Vice President, State Affairs
Solar Energy Industries Association
505 9th Street NW #800
Washington DC 20004

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Comments submitted on behalf of the Environmental Law & Policy Center, Ohio Environmental Council, Solar Energy Industries Associations, and Vote Solar Initiative was served by electronic mail, upon the following Parties of Record, this 31st day of January, 2013.

/s/ Nicholas McDaniel

Nicholas McDaniel

Patti Mallarnee
The Office of the Ohio Consumers Counsel
10 W. Broad St. Suite 1800
Columbus OH 43215
Phone: 614-466-8574
mallarnee@occ.state.oh.us

David R. Blair
GEM Energy
5505 Valley Belt Road, Suite F
Independence, OH 44131
Phone: 330-463-5378
Fax: 330-463-5379

Judi L Sobecki
Eric Brown
The Dayton Power and Light Company
1065 Woodman Dr.
Dayton OH 45432
Phone: (937) 259-7181
Fax: (937) 259-7775
judi.sobecki@dplinc.com

Elizabeth Watts
Associate General Counsel
Amy B. Spiller
Deputy General Counsel
139 Fourth Street, Room 1303 Main
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Phone: 513-287-4320
Elizabeth.watts@duke-energy.com
Amy.spiller@duke-energy.com

Matthew White
IGS Energy
6100 Emerald Parkway
Dublin OH 43016
Phone: (614)659-5049
mswhite@igsenergy.com

Dianne Kuhnell
Duke Energy Business Services
139 E. Fourth Street EA025 P.O. Box 960
Cincinnati OH 45201
Phone: (513)287-4337
Fax: (513)287-4386
dianne.kuhnell@duke-energy.com

Lance S Traves
Labyrinth Management Group, Inc.
239 South Court Street
Medina OH 44256
Phone: (330)764-4825
Fax: (330)764-9224
l.traves@lmgweb.com

Steven T Nourse
American Electric Power Service Corporation
1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor
Columbus OH 43215
Phone: (614) 716-1608
Fax: (614) 716-2950
stnourse@aep.com

Samuel C. Randazzo
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC
21 E. State Street, 17th Floor
Columbus OH 43215
Phone: 614-469-8000
Fax: 614-469-4653
sam@mwncmh.com

Scott Elliott
Metro CD Engineering, LLC
7003 Post Rd Suite 204
Dublin OH 43016
Phone: 614-746-5830
sellott@metrocdengineering.com

Melissa R. Yost
Terry L. Etter
Assistant Consumers' Counsel
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485
yost@occ.state.oh.us
etter@occ.state.oh.us

Thad B Culley
Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc.
436 14th Street Suite 1305
Oakland CA 94612
Phone: 510-314-8205
tculley@keyesandfox.com

Carrie M Dunn
James W Burk
FirstEnergy Service Company
76 Main Street S
Akron OH 44308
Phone: 330-761-2352
Fax: 330-384-3875
cdunn@firstenergycorp.com
burkj@firstenergycorp.com

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

1/31/2013 2:09:44 PM

in

Case No(s). 12-2051-EL-ORD

Summary: Comments of the Environmental Law & Policy Center, Ohio Environmental Council, Solar Energy Industries Associations, and Vote Solar Initiative electronically filed by Mr. Nicholas A. McDaniel on behalf of Environmental Law and Policy Center and Ohio Environmental Council and Solar Energy Industries Association and Vote Solar Initiative