


Capacity Definition Implementa Working Group

Meeting 1 - June 25, 2024

Welcome!



Agenda

- Antitrust Reminder
 - Introductions
 - Background & Overview of Issue
 - PUC Directive
 - Goals of Working Group
 - Initial Discussion
 - Set Agenda for Next Meeting - July 2, 2024 at 11:00 AM (CST)
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Antitrust Reminder

As a trade association of competitors, the Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association (MnSEIA) is committed to complying with antitrust laws. As such, we ask and expect everyone to refrain from discussing sensitive topics such as prices, margins, discounts, suppliers, marketing or product plans, or other competitively sensitive topics. The following content is intended only for members of MnSEIA. Please do not distribute or record the calls using any form of artificial intelligence or software. Anything discussed during the call should not be shared outside MnSEIA membership.

Introductions



Last Name	First Name	Organization
Allen	Brian	All Energy Solar
Bull	Mike	MN Power
Burandt	Brian	Connexus
DeMarre	Danielle	All Energy Solar
Denniston	Jim	Xcel Energy
Dooling	Griffin	Blue Horizon Energy
Guttormson	Tom	Connexus
Heinen	Adam	Dakota Electric
Iliff	Zahra/Adam	Vessyll
King	Bobby	Solar United Neighbors
Lipschultz	Dan	MREA
Najmae	Pouya	Cooperative Energy Futures
Nelson	Alex	Dakota Electric
O'Grady	Logan	MnSEIA
Pence	Bret	MNIPL
Peterson	Jessie	Xcel Energy
Privratsky	Matt	Nokomis Energy
Robinson	Kristi	STAR Energy Services (MREA)
Schiro	Dean	Xcel Energy
Van Arkle	Matt	New Leaf
Whebbe	Sarah	All Energy Solar
Whitcomb	Kent	MiEnergy
Zaun	Curtis	MnSEIA

Background & Overview of Issue

Why is this Important to MnSEIA members?

- Net-metering is a vital mechanism for deploying distributed solar in MN - important tool for installers to market & sell solar PV systems
- Net-metering in MN is limited to a “qualifying facility” or “QF” that has a **capacity** of 1MW & under (IOU) or 40 kW & under (Muni/Coop)
- Different applications of “capacity” throughout MN utility territories
 - Patch work of 170+ different policies, restrictions, fees, etc. - difficult to plan for & do business
 - Creates confusion for MN consumers making large capital investments in their property
 - Inconsistent with consumer & solar industry interpretation of the legal definitions
- Negative impacts on battery storage

Background & Overview of Issue

Legal Definitions & Rules

Minn. Stat. § 216B.164, subd. 2a(c)

“‘Capacity’ means the number of megawatts alternating current (AC) at the point of interconnection between a distributed generation facility and a utility's electric system.”

Minn. R. 7835.0100, subp. 4

“‘Capacity’ means the capability to produce, transmit, or deliver electric energy, and is measured by the number of megawatts alternating current at the point of common coupling between a qualifying facility and a utility's electric system.”

Minn. R. 7835.0100, subp. 17a

“‘Point of common coupling’ means the point where the qualifying facility's generation system, including the point of generator output, is connected to the utility's electric power grid.”

Background & Overview of Issue

Prior Efforts & Dakota Electric TSM

- Over a decade of confusion & complaints by installers & their customers
- Case-by-case negotiation with 170+ different utilities - adding months to the interconnection process
- 2022 Crow Wing Power Issue brought to MnSEIA staff by member - opportunity for clarification but settled out
- 2024 Dakota Electric Technical Specifications Manual (TSM) - uses “nameplate capacity” - opportunity for clarification

PUC Order & Directive - Docket 24-200

“The Commission hereby opens a proceeding into application of the definition of ‘capacity’ in Minn. Stat. § 216B.164, subd. 3(d) and associated rules without creating reliability problems related to net-metering rate eligibility for Dakota Electric, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Xcel.”


Goals

MnSEIA

- Clarity, consistency, predictability
- Compliance with state law and policy
- Consistency with Federal policy
- Consensus (if possible) for August 1st Initial Comments

Initial Discussion





**Next Meeting:
July 2, 2024
11:00 AM (CST)**