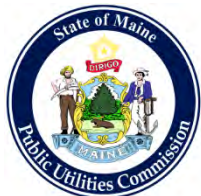


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Philip L. Bartlett II
CHAIR

Patrick J. Scully
Carolyn C. Gilbert
COMMISSIONERS

Amy Dumeny
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

December 6, 2024

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Interim report required pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 307 on the Interconnection Working Group

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology:

During the First Special Session of the 131st Legislature, [Public Law 2023, chapter 307](#)¹ (Act) was enacted and went into effect on October 26, 2023. Section 8 of the Act requires the Maine Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to convene a working group² “to collaborate and resolve disputes relating to the implementation of the State’s small generator interconnection procedures for Level 1 and Level 2 facilities, as defined in Chapter 324³ of the Commission’s Rules.” The Act requires the Commission to submit three reports on the activities of the working group. The first report was due and submitted on December 6, 2023,⁴ an interim report is due on December 6, 2024, and the final report is due on December 6, 2025.

Section 8 of the Act requires that the working group meet monthly for the first year and then quarterly until the submission of the final report in December 2025. The working group met on November 17, 2023, December 17, 2023, January 24, 2024, March 29, 2024,⁵ April 24, 2024, May 23, 2024, June 26, 2024, July 25, 2024, August 26, 2024, September 23, 2024, October 28, 2024⁶ and December 5, 2024.

The working group has focused on topics primarily related to Level 1 and Level 2 generators, which include:

1. Reserved capacity for Level 1 and smaller Level 2 generators with on-site load;

¹ LD 327

² The membership of the working group is attached to this letter.

³ Chapter 324 of the Commission’s rules addresses the processes investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities and interconnection facility owners and developers must follow to connect a small generator with the transmission and distribution utility (T&D Utility) distribution system. Chapter 324 divides interconnection facilities into categories based on size and whether the facilities pass required screens. Level 1 facilities are smaller than 25 kilowatts (kW). A typical example of a Level 1 facility is a residential rooftop solar facility. Level 2 facilities are between 25 kW and 2 megawatts. An example of a Level 2 facility is a small commercial solar installation.

⁴ The interim report, which was submitted as a letter, can be accessed here -

<https://www.maine.gov/mpuc/sites/maine.gov/mpuc/files/inline-files/Interconnection%20working%20group-Final.pdf>

⁵ The February 29th meeting was postponed to March due to weather.

⁶ There was no meeting in November as a date could not be found to allow for a majority of the members to participate.

2. Revised and new definitions for Aggregated Generation, Distribution Upgrades, Interconnection Facilities, Point of Common Coupling, Point of Interconnection and Relevant Minimum Load;
3. Updated screening criteria reflecting the most recent suggestions of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC);
4. Additional transparency related to screening information and results;
5. Approaches to review projects that fail screening criteria;
6. Additional transparency related to hosting capacity and congested circuits; and
7. Topics of focus for the future ombudsman position.⁷

The working group is currently in the process of agreeing on language for proposed changes to Chapter 324 that reflect the issues on which the group has reached consensus. Once language is finalized, the Commission will issue a Notice of Inquiry to receive input from all stakeholders on the draft language, consider the input received and decide on next steps based on stakeholder input. Members of the working group recognize that their proposed draft will provide an opportunity for the larger community, and the members themselves, to comment upon the initial language and policy ideas proposed by the group. While the group has not necessarily reached consensus on specific language related to each of the enumerated issues, the group has agreed that the issues proposed are of significant relevance to the types of projects described in the Act.

At the conclusion of the December 5, 2024, meeting, working group members agreed to meet separately to discuss language where the parties differed greatly to determine the best approach forward, or if consensus was achievable. In the upcoming year, the Commission will continue to hold working group meetings to finalize language to be distributed to additional stakeholders in an Inquiry opened by the Commission.

Sincerely,



Deirdre Schneider, Legislative Liaison
Maine Public Utilities Commission

cc: Lindsay Laxon, Legislative Analyst, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

⁷ On November 19, 2024, the Commission adopted Chapter 328, Rule Governing the Interconnection Ombudsman Fee and Fund and posted the Interconnection Ombudsman position on December 2, 2024.

Working Group Members Pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 307

One or More Representatives from CMP

- Keith Radonis (Replaced by Nathan Pelletier)
- Kim Cullen
- Kathleen Newman

One or More Representatives from Versant

- David Norman
- Nate Cota
- Tyler Stanley

Representatives from 2 or more companies engaged in the development and construction of Level 1 and Level 2 facilities in the CMP service Territory (several also work in Versant territory) and

- Aaron Catterfield, Maine Solar Solutions
- Chris Byers, Branch Renewable Energy
- Kate Tohme, New Leaf Energy

Representatives from 2 or more companies engaged in the development and construction of Level 1 and Level 2 facilities in the Versant service territory (several also work in CMP territory)

- Todd Maynard, Maynards Electric
- Dan Passarello, Nexamp
- Vaughn Woodruff, Revision Energy (Replaced by Lindsay Bourgoine and Nat Haslett)
- Danny Piper, Sundog Solar
- Tyler Eads, SolarLogix, LLC

Any other person that the commission determines necessary to ensure that all interests related to interconnection issues are fairly represented

- Audrey Puleio, BNRG, expertise in Level 4s

PUC Staff:

- Romayn Richards, Analyst
- Rikka Strong, Staff Attorney (Replaced temporarily by Deirdre Schneider, Legislative Liaison)