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Solar PV Interconnection Challenges

Washington, DC Public Service Commission
MEDSIS Developers' Workshop
November 19, 2015

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KENERGY solar

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- Represents solar contractors, developers, manufacturers, suppliers, businesses and professionals
- Over 170 member companies in region
- Over 900 solar employees in Washington DC
- Industry members developing and maintaining strong solar market in DC
- Interested in collaborating with utility to address current and emerging interconnection issues

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- DC RPS requires growing deployment of distributed solar PV systems

- Interconnection issues will become more prevalent
  - Immediate - secondary networks
  - Future - overall DG penetration levels

- MDV-SEIA recommends that PSC create a forum where industry and utility can collaborate to proactively address interconnection issues

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Case 1: Takoma Village Cohousing Condominium

54 kW system on radial feeder

Pepco approval contingent on owners' agreement to:

- Shut down system if it causes high feeder voltage or voltage fluctuations, and
- Not resume operation without Pepco approval

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Case 2: Apartment complex, southwest waterfront area

300 kW system on low-voltage network system

Pepco required power-export limit; limit raised after further study

Project significantly delayed due to production uncertainty

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Case 3: Residential rooftop system

3 kW system on low-voltage network system

Pepco required reverse-power relay to ensure no export at any time

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Proposal – MEDSIS Working Group on Interconnection Issues

- Chaired by PSC staff – impartial, expert leadership is essential
- Modeled after Maryland's successful RM41 Net Metering Working Group established in 2010 to revise net-metering rules
  - continues to provide a venue for constructive dialogue
  - Last month hosted two days of draft rulemaking on MD Community Solar regulations currently under review
- Bring together renewable-energy industry, utilities including Pepco, other RE/DG stakeholders, consultants, technology vendors