

# Governor's Energy Office

## Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group

### Meeting Summary

**Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Hybrid meeting with attendees in person in Augusta and via Zoom**

### Attendees

Stakeholder group members: Dan Burgess, Governor's Energy Office; Phil Bartlett, Maine Public Utilities Commission; Bill Harwood, Office of the Public Advocate; David Norman, Versant Power; Peter Cohen, Central Maine Power; Fortunat Mueller, ReVision Energy; Bob Cleaves, Dirigo Solar; Tony Buxton, Preti Flaherty - Industrial Energy Consumers Group; Jesse McKinnell, CEI/Bright Community Capital; Neal Goldberg, Maine Municipal Association; Sharon Klein, UMaine School of Economics; Eric Feigenbaum, Versant Power; Jessica Robertson, New Leaf Energy; Phelps Turner, Conservation Law Foundation

Staff: Celina Cunningham, Ethan Tremblay, and Caroline Colan, Governor's Energy Office (GEO)

Consultants: Tim Woolf, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.; Jim Kennerly, Sustainable Energy Advantage (SEA)

Members of the public.

### Welcome and introductions

Ethan Tremblay welcomed all stakeholder group members and members of the public. All members, both in person and online, introduced themselves. Ethan also welcomed experts from Synapse and Sustainable Energy Advantage (SEA) who have contracted with the GEO to assist in the work of the DG Stakeholder Group and reviewed the agenda before passing the session off for presentations and facilitated discussion from Synapse and SEA.

### Presentation

Tim Woolf of Synapse presented a slide deck reviewing the feedback they received from stakeholders at the previous meeting and from the "homework assignment," and the technical details of a finalized "Maine Test" for cost-benefit analysis of distributed generation.

Jim Kennerly of SEA presented additional slides that provided detailed background and supporting information on successor program designs and options for modeling. SEA will model the projected revenue requirement for a range of supply blocks, or different configurations of distributed generation projects, and the associated results of various program design options. Jim presented SEA's approach for this modeling, as well as discussion of relevant program design considerations that influence the modeled results. Meeting slides can be accessed [here](#).

Specific stakeholder feedback or requests for additional information regarding the benefit-cost analysis included:

- How will the cost-benefit analysis address distribution system investments funded by interconnecting distributed generators?
- How will the value of program administration costs to be included be determined?
- Will avoided distribution costs be averaged systemwide or specific to certain areas?
- Will estimated macroeconomic impacts include local tax revenue?
- Can Synapse consider running sensitivity analyses related to the discount rate and to high gas prices?
- Can Synapse consider altering the T&D escalation currently assumed at 1%? Several stakeholders suggested this number may be too low.

Synapse and SEA plan to follow up with several stakeholders via email to seek input on key benefit-cost assumptions and data sources and will continue to address questions while finalizing the benefit-cost analysis approach.

## Public Comment

Ethan opened the floor for public comment. No comments from the public were offered at this meeting.

## Next steps and timeline

All meetings of the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group will continue to be open to the public with opportunities for comment.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the DG Stakeholder Group will be on Tuesday, October 4 from 2:00-5:00 p.m., hybrid and in-person in Augusta. Note the meeting has been extended to 5 p.m.

Stakeholder group members requested a recap from GEO at the beginning of each meeting to inform all attendees about material and decisions that have been covered to date. Members also suggested additional group discussion of overall successor program objectives may benefit the group's continued efforts.

Consultants will share additional materials for feedback by email in advance of the next meeting to support the stakeholder group in selecting modeling options that will inform the design of the successor program.