

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: DISTRIBUTED GENERATION	DOCKET NO. NOI-2014-0001
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**ORDER SCHEDULING CONFERENCE CALL REGARDING DISTRIBUTED
GENERATION DATA AND REQUIRING FILING**

(Issued December 29, 2014)

On January 7, 2014, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an order commencing an inquiry into distributed generation (DG), inviting participants to comment on broad general questions related to the benefits and challenges of DG (both for utilities and their ratepayers), on policies that should be examined with respect to DG, and to identify the technical, financial, regulatory, and safety aspects of DG that participants would like to address in this inquiry docket. Participants were also invited to comment on other issues they considered relevant to any discussion regarding DG, such as whether there were any technical hurdles to implementing DG. The Board also welcomed any policy recommendations for the Board, other state agencies, or the General Assembly to consider. Comments were received from over 170 participants, including utilities, utility associations, environmental groups, renewable energy advocates, and other organizations, businesses, and individuals.

Because of the breadth of the topics identified by participants in the initial comments, the Board issued an order on May 12, 2014, which suggested the inquiry

focus on the topics of net metering (excluding avoided cost issues, which are the subject of a separate Board docket, Docket No. INU-2014-0001); interconnection of DG, including safety and reliability; and customer awareness and protection. The Board invited participants to respond to specific questions contained in the May 12, 2014, order. Responses were due on June 24, 2014, and 47 participants filed comments.

After reviewing the comments, the Board issued an order on September 19, 2014, which contained additional questions regarding net metering and interconnection and asked the participants to reply to each other's comments; the responses to the Board's questions and reply comments were due on October 24, 2014. Twenty-eight inquiry participants filed comments in response to the Board's September 19, 2014, order.

In the Board's May 12, 2014, order, the Board requested that all utility participants provide detailed information related to each DG facility connected to the utilities' systems consisting of: nameplate capacity; date interconnected; fuel type; classifications (i.e., qualified facility (QF), alternate energy production (AEP), net metering, and any others that may apply); indication of which AEP facilities contribute to the utilities' AEP purchase obligation; whether each facility is subject to a tariffed or contracted rate; the applicable retail tariff customer class; and whether hourly load data are available for each facility. MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican), Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL), the Iowa Association of Electric

Cooperatives (IAEC) and the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities (IAMU) provided data in response to the order. While the data is useful, the Board found that the data was not necessarily consistent among utilities and the Board in its September 19, 2014, order had three questions specifically related to DG data. MidAmerican, IPL, IAEC, and IAMU responded to those questions and a summary of their responses can be found in a staff memorandum dated December 19, 2014. This memorandum, which also contains staff's analysis and recommendations, is available on the Board's electronic filing Web site, <https://efs.iowa.gov/efs/>.

The Board believes it would be useful if reporting differences and inconsistencies among the utilities were addressed so that the same information could be reported consistently. In its May 12, 2014, order, the Board defined distributed generation as “[g]eneration fueled by renewable or fossil-fuel sources that is built in order to serve load located at or near the generator and capable of delivering power to a utility’s distribution system.” It is unclear from the data filed by the utilities or utility associations whether they included both distributed generation facilities and those owned by independent power producers. Also, the data contains numerous different classification labels and the Board will ask MidAmerican, IPL, IAEC, and IAMU to provide definitions for each of the classifications used. If the data can be made consistent, it will provide meaningful information for the state and in conjunction with EIA-860 data provide a further–refined indication of the available generation capacity in Iowa.

In order to clarify the data, a conference call will be scheduled with MidAmerican, IPL, IAMU, and IAEC. Each utility or association is asked to have on the call those persons who can answer questions about their respective data. Other interested participants may also call in. The call will be scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. The toll free dial-in number for the United States and Canada is 1-866-685-1580. The conference code is 5152817051.

The conference call will be led by Board staff with the goal of understanding the data filed, ensuring that the data filed is consistent among utilities and that all data needed to establish a baseline for the total amount of distributed generation in Iowa is being collected. Prior to the call, utility and utility association participants are asked to provide definitions for the various classifications used (i.e., offset and sale to the utility, offset only, non-export, no sale to utility, grid only, tariffed rate on both transactions, contract, and so forth).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. A conference call is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2015, to discuss distributed generation data as outlined in this order. MidAmerican Energy Company, Interstate Power and Light Company, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, and the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities are to have representatives on the call. The toll free dial-in number for the United States and Canada is 1-866-685-1580 and the conference code is 5152817051. If you have

problems connecting to the conference call, please call Trisha Quijano at 515-725-7331.

2. On or before January 20, 2015, MidAmerican Energy Company, Interstate Power and Light Company, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, and the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities are to provide definitions as outlined in the body of this order.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

/s/ Nick Wagner

ATTEST:

/s/ Joan Conrad
Executive Secretary

/s/ Sheila K. Tipton

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 29th day of December 2014.