



NY-Sun Solar PV Incentive Program March 2017 Monthly Installer Call Summary - March 16, 2017

New PSC Order on Value of Distributed Energy Resources- Case 15-E-0751

The NYS Public Service Commission issued a new [order](#) effective March 9th, in the matter of the value of Distributed Energy Resources.

NYSERDA and DPS are in the process of developing and scheduling a webinar dedicated to this topic. The webinar will be from 2-3:30 EST on Friday March 24, 2017. We will provide registration and dial-in information shortly.

As for immediate action by developers NY Sun sent out following announcement. "The tariff filed by each utility shall include amendments to the existing NEM provisions limiting eligibility for service under those provisions to projects that were interconnected and served under PSL §66-j in that utility's territory as of the close of business on March 9, 2017 and projects that had completed Step 8 SIR, for projects larger than 50 kW, or Step 4 of the SIR, for projects smaller than 50 kW, by the close of business on March 9, 2017 and provided written notification of complete installation by March 17, 2017".

In other words, projects built by March 9 will receive the existing version of statutory net metering, but contractors must notify the respective utility by March 17. Residential and non-demand commercial systems built moving forwards over the next several years will continue to receive net metering, but it will be for 20 years, not for the life of the system.

Operations Updates and Reminders

If you are having trouble using our portal or following our procedures, we have guidance documents available on the Resources and Forms section of NY-Sun website.

<https://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/NY-Sun/Project-Developers/Residential-Small-Commercial-MW-Block/Resources-Residential-Small-Commercial-MW-Block>

OR

<https://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/NY-Sun/Project-Developers/Commercial-Industrial-MW-Block/Commercial-Industrial-MW-Block-Resources-Forms>

We typically don't provide online or in-person trainings to contractors, but if you have specific process questions or if something isn't clear, please reach out to us.

Shading tools & site photos

NY-Sun is accepting an additional shading tool, Helioscope, for use in the program. Helioscope uses lidar technology and satellite imagery to perform remote shading analysis and generate TSRF figures. Additionally, reports generated by Solmetric Suneye, Solar Pathfinder, Bright Harvest, Solar Census, Lightmile, Wiley ASSET and Aurora, are acceptable. Please see Section 5.5 of the Program Manual.

We are seeing many project applications that are submitted without proper site photos. We are looking for photos of the array location, a photo looking south from the array location, inverter location and the main service panel. If you don't submit these photos, your project will be held up. More details are in Section 5.3 of the Program Manual.

QA Issues

QA Goals and Objectives

- Consumer protection - system production meets contract stipulations
- Improve safety of installed systems in NYS
- Increase consumer confidence in solar technology and promote value in the market
- Recent analysis completed by Berkeley Lab finds that solar PV leases do NOT impact home value one way or another

NYSERDA 2017 QA activities will be centered around transitioning toward market-based quality

- Sharing quality information with AHJ's, Contractors, and Builders.
- Explicitly identifying the common deficiencies. Sharing these with AHJs, Contractors and Builders. Developing a framework to prevent common deficiencies.
- Training for code officials, electrical inspectors, etc. We are investigating the most effective way to deliver this training through the PVTN or others. We are investigating the most effective format for this training, such as via NYSBOC Conferences, open Webinars, open training announcements, etc.
- Pilot assessment of contractor/builder compliance with your own Quality Management Plan
 - What firms have a QA Plan
 - What firms have a QA Officer
 - What firm want guidance via a QA Plan Template
 - Voluntary submission of QA plans from solar Contractors. Send to douglas.page@nyserda.ny.gov OR Inspections@nyserda.ny.gov for NYSERDA consideration

Photo inspections

- Some of you have participated in early pilot of ~60 photo reviews which is now complete
- Starting pilot that will include photo inspection for first few projects completed by Provisional status builders
- Any concerns, email inspections@nyserda.ny.gov

Contractor/Builder Response Time

- NYSERDA is monitoring response time for responses to Contractor Action Required (CAR) notices
- Notifications will be sent shortly to all contractors/builders with responses greater than 30 days
- Timeliness is important to NYSERDA and is costing NYSERDA time to monitor and address delinquent responses

Performance metrics

- NYSERDA average inspection rate = 6%, this will be increasing as NYSERDA adds photo reviews to our process
- NYSERDA's rational sampling criteria will be reviewed and revised based on performance data to field and photo review and results from the pilot work on QMP compliance. Builders with good quality will be more quickly transitioned to "Full" status and subject to less inspections as warranted.
- Improvements (defects trending downward)
- The Program Average Inspection Score is not positive. NYSERDA will be working to improve the score across the Program and working with individual contractors/builders.
- Concerns (defects increasing or recurring routinely) and working through mechanisms to address these

Commercial/Industrial (>200kW) Program Updates

A reminder C&I project completion deadline has been extended to 30 months

Other Items and Events

[Intersolar Summit](#)

March 23, 2017-Brooklyn NY

PV Trainers Network

[Scheduled trainings](#)

Resources

[Guidebook for local government](#)

[Environmental Assessment Form \(EAF\) Workbooks \(SEQR\)](#)

About NY-Sun

NY-Sun, a dynamic public-private partnership, will drive growth in the solar industry and make solar technology more affordable for all New Yorkers. NY-Sun brings together and expands existing programs administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), PSEG Long Island, and the New York Power Authority (NYPA), to ensure a coordinated, well-supported solar energy expansion plan and a transition to a sustainable, self-sufficient solar industry. To learn more about NY-Sun, visit ny-sun.ny.gov

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