

Kent County Renewable Energy Task Force
13 November 2015
Meeting Summary

The Kent County 2015 Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF) met on Friday, 13 November 2015 at 9:00 am in the Second Floor Conference room in the R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr. Government Center in Chestertown, MD. The following members attended: Walter Bowie, Bill Cooper, David Hill, Bob Ingersol, Kim Kohl, Janet Lewis, Sam Shoge, Ed Taylor, Ellyn Vail, and Terry Willis. RETF staff in attendance included Amy G. Moredock, Planning Director, and Katrina Tucker, Community Planner. Also in attendance were Glenn H. Ankenbrand, Delmarva Power Senior Supervising Engineer, Amrita Acharya-Menon, Engineer with Pepco Holdings, Inc., and Madison --- (intern with Pepco).

Ms. Moredock requested comments and approval of the 30 October 2015 meeting summary. The summary was accepted as drafted.

Discussion of Small and Utility Scale Solar Energy System provisions

The members reviewed the various maps and the memorandum from staff identifying total acreage of county land per zoning district in comparison with zoning districts in which utility scale solar provisions are outlined. Members discussed and came to consensus on the following relevant points:

- The existing provisions in the Land Use Ordinance for both the Industrial and Employment Center Districts seem appropriate.
- There are approximately 2,800 combined acres of I and EC zoning. Limiting development of utility scale systems in these districts to 30% would result in permitting such uses on approximately 830 acres. The traditional/historical employment growth rate in these districts seems to support the utility scale regulations as enacted in 2011.
- It does not seem appropriate to propose changes in the Industrial Critical Area District which currently does not permit utility scale energy systems.
- Allowing utility scale provisions in the Resource Conservation District (RCD) is neither consistent with the Statement of Intent nor the existing permitted uses in that district. Allowing such systems would potentially bifurcate habitat and impede its viability. It was decided to recommend deletion of the existing special exception provision in the RCD.
- The question of amending the current utility scale solar special exception provisions in the Agricultural Zoning District (AZD) will be the focus of the discussion moving forward.

Guest Speakers: Amrita Acharya-Menon (Pepco Holdings) and Glenn H. Ankenbrand (Delmarva Power)

Ms. Acharya-Menon and Mr. Ankenbrand discussed the existing and proposed Delmarva Power infrastructure in Kent County. There are currently 2 substations in the County: 1 in Chestertown and 1 in Lynch. There is a plan to construct a third substation in Fairlee by 2019.

Renewable energy sources require 6 megawatts per circuit. A transformer has the capacity to handle 10 megawatts. Once the wattage exceeds 10 megawatts, the source must tie directly into a transmission line. These calculations are based on the equipment and the mechanism of energy generation. In general, large scale renewable energy systems must tap into transmission lines with outliers tapping into substations. The cost to tap into a transmission line totals approximately \$150,000 per mile and includes the fiber that must be laid as well as an upgrade to the substation. The substation must be enhanced with a transfer trip which protects the station from back-feeding the system.

Delmarva Power makes a map available which identifies restrictions on their systems, as well as all of their submittals/applications for review at Delmarva.com.

Next steps

The members will continue their discussion of utility scale solar energy systems. Staff will draft amendments to the current special exception standards for the Agricultural Zoning District for discussion at the 11 December 2015 meeting.