

THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY TRACKER

A West Virginia News Source | Summer 2015

POLICY TRACKING

U.S. Supreme Court to Hear FERC Order 745 DR Case

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear two cases regarding FERC Order 745, which places wholesale DR regulation and pricing under FERC jurisdiction. The D.C. Circuit Court vacated FERC Order 745 in May 2014.

The court said it will consider two questions: 1) whether FERC reasonably concluded it has authority to regulate the rules used by operators of wholesale electricity markets to pay for reductions in electricity demand and to recoup those payments through wholesale power prices, and 2) whether the Court of Appeals erred in holding that the rule issued by the FERC is arbitrary and capricious.

Two cases will be consolidated: FERC v. EPSA, 14-840, and EnerNOC v. EPSA, 14-841. The EPSA (Electric Power Supply Association) is a trade association representing competitive power suppliers, including generators and marketers, and EnerNOC (Energy Network Operations Center) is a provider of energy intelligence software that delivers demand response (DR) resources. Hearings are expected to be scheduled in Fall 2015, with a decision by June 2016.

SOURCE: Utility Dive and Bloomberg.

UTILITIES

Appalachian Power's Residential Peak Reduction Program Pays Households to Reduce AC Load

As of April 1, 2015, qualifying Appalachian Power customers with a central air conditioner/heat pump can participate in the utility's new Residential Peak Reduction Program. The program is a demand response (DR) initiative that seeks to reduce stress on the electric grid when demand is at its highest.

The utility installs a device that connects to the air conditioner compressor at no cost to the customer. The device will remotely slow the cycling of the air conditioner to 50 percent when demand for electricity nears a peak level. Cycling events can occur from May through September, on non-holiday weekdays, between noon and 8 p.m. and will not exceed six hours per day.

Participating customers will receive an \$8 monthly bill credit for each central cooling unit controlled during the billing months of May through September each year of program participation. The new program began in conjunction with the launch of Appalachian Power's new Take Charge brand, along with expanded energy efficiency program option.

LEARN MORE: Takechargewv.com



FUNDING/FINANCING

WVDOE Awards Two New Mini-Grants

The two latest awardees of WVDOE's ARC-funded Mini-Grant program are West Virginia State University (WVSU) and Williamson Health & Wellness Center (WHWC).

WVSU will install solar panels to provide power to 20 aeroponic tower gardens. The gardens will be housed in a high tunnel located on a reclaimed surface mine in Kanawha County, on property managed by the West Virginia National Guard. The tower gardens will grow a variety of crops including lettuce, greens, peppers, and herbs. This project includes demonstration systems for rainwater harvesting and composting. The high tunnel will be operated completely off-grid. The tunnels, tower gardens and related equipment are funded by WVSU and USDA.

The WHWC will be preparing 1.5 acres of former surface mine land for agricultural development. The land is part of a 20-acre tract owned by the Mingo County Redevelopment Authority. Crops anticipated to be grown include various fruit trees and berries. The project will interact with The Growing Warriors, a program designed to train and equip veterans and their families with skills and tools needed to grow quality produce. The goal of this project is to determine how well reclaimed surface mine lands can be used for agriculture and if the approach is replicable.

SOURCE: CEGAS.

OTHER ENERGY NEWS

Expanding Energy Efficiency Conference Held May 21

Speakers included the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, Appalachian Power, Energy Efficient WV, the Homebuilders Association of WV - Appalachian Regional Consortium for Energy Efficiency (ARCEE) Project, Homer Laughlin China Co., Koppers Inc., McKinley Associates, Natural Capital Investment Fund, Johnson Controls and the WV Division of Corrections, the US Department of Agriculture and ZMM Architects.

The event included a panel discussion of how to meet the energy efficiency building block requirements of the proposed Clean Power Plan. The discussion focused on utility program savings in Ohio and ways to encourage more robust residential participation in WV. Ideas included using more flexible financing options such as on-bill repayment, local energy efficiency partnerships, and adding gas utility programs.

Presentations from the event are available at energywv.org.

PEOPLE & PLACES

Cabell County Schools with Only One Demand Reduction Event after Five Years

Since 2010, Cabell County Schools has participated in an electricity demand response (DR) program coordinated by the PJM Regional Transmission Organization. The school system participates via Kore Energy, a DR aggregator. During the last five years, the school system was only asked to reduce electricity demand once. The single event took place in the summer of 2014. In a typical DR event the energy manager receives a 12 p.m. notice to reduce demand by 2 p.m. The actual event typically lasts for four hours and does not affect instruction or scheduled events. The schools do not have to guarantee a specific reduction in demand to participate.

DR program participation has been a revenue source for the school system, initially for testing the communication and response protocol with PJM and in subsequent years to be on stand-by. Total payments to the school system have amounted to approximately \$150,000.

Participation in the DR market is part of the schools' larger energy conservation program, which emphasizes energy efficient usage of computers and lighting. The program saved Cabell County Schools \$3.2 million over the last five years.

SOURCE: Chip McMillian, Director of Buildings & Grounds, Cabell County Public Schools.



SODAR Unit Moved to Bechtel Boy Scout Reserve

The Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Science (CEGAS) at Marshall University moved their Sonic Detection and Ranging (SODAR) unit on March 31, 2015 to the Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve in Fayette County. The SODAR unit measures wind speed at altitudes ranging from 30 to 200 meters.

The SODAR unit is located on the highest ridgeline within the property. Existing modeled wind data sets show the immediate area as having favorable wind energy generation potential. The SODAR will be used to verify this potential. It is anticipated that the SODAR will remain on site for a year.

Personnel with the Scout Summit Group can view real-time data as it is collected. They have plans to incorporate the data for some of their educational programs such as the sustainability and renewable energy merit badges, as well as their earth science programs as the SODAR also collects a wide variety of weather-related data, e.g. wind speed and wind direction at multiple heights, temperature, barometric pressure, etc.

PEOPLE & PLACES CONTINUED

CEGAS staff have offered to provide additional educational assistance later this summer at the facility, and will educate staff on wind energy development potential. The site has high electric demand, and there is interest in seeing if wind energy generation might be a good investment for the facility in the future.

SOURCE: CEGAS.

Solar Co-ops Started Throughout West Virginia

An organization called WV SUN has started several solar co-ops in WV. The goal of WV SUN is to obtain a critical mass of households to solicit competitive bids from area solar installers, and select a single company to complete all installations once the group is large enough.

WV SUN has determined that by going solar as a group and choosing a single installer, each participant can generally save up to 25 percent off the cost of a solar PV system. Solar co-ops exist in Charleston, Wheeling, Morgantown, Fayette County and Monroe County. For more information visit wvsun.org or contact Emily Stiever at emily@wvsun.org.



A PUBLICATION OF THE

WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF

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