

Subject: Single Plant testimony of PUC on April 15 2025

Good morning Honorable Committee members,

The single-plant issue that Mr. Faber testified with respect to on April 15, 2025, before the House Energy and Digital Infrastructure is not complicated at all, especially the 5MW threshold.

The 5MW metric is derived from the ISO-New England practice that any project connected to the local distribution system that is under 5MWs and not registered as a market participant cannot be seen by ISO. In other words, it reduces the reported loads at ISO-NE nodes. The result is additional savings to ratepayers from lower capacity, reserve, ancillary & network service costs, which is what GMP has relied on in getting their solar projects approved by the PUC.

Whether one 4.99MW project is separate from another 4.99MW is determined under ISO-NE's PP-5 rules. Unlike the convoluted PUC approach that is designed to kill non-GMP or non-Global Foundries' solar projects, the ISO-NE approach is agnostic and straightforward and easy to use. Attached are the current PP-5 rules. Those are planned to change as a result of ISO-NE's implementation of FERC Order No. 2023, but the definition of station change is not likely to change.

Section 2.1 of the attached PP5 procedures, mainly the footnotes, describes when a facility is separate. Under ISO-NE's view, as long as each facility is separate in an electrical sense, and enclosed by its own fence, then the projects are not aggregated.

ISO-NE has implemented a simple rule. Whereas the PUC has created a rule that is simply designed to kill standard offer projects, which Ed McNamara has testified before this honorable committee that the PUC doesn't like, wants to end and has wanted to end since 2017.

Take the example of our Warner & Battle Creek 2.2MW solar projects in Bennington. Bennington is one of the larger load centers in Vermont. Battle Creek solar went into service in 2019. Both projects are supported by the Town of Bennington and are located in a preferred area under the Town's Act 174 amendment. Both projects are located on commercially zoned land behind a car dealership, a home depot and a Walmart. They are separated by a Vermont railway track which is used mostly to store propane tankers. They are completely separate under ISO-NE rules and under FERC's rules. The only "shared" piece of equipment between the two facilities is an airbreak switch far away from both projects that Battle Creek had paid for in 2018 at

a cost of \$8,088.57 and which Warner solar actually has no need for to interconnect. Yet the PUC (Ed McNamara) held that that this airbreak switch at a cost of \$8,088.57 and Green Mountain Power's independent decision in 2023 to upgrade its own distribution line in between the two projects for safety reasons unrelated to the solar facilities caused the two projects to become one and that they were a "single plant" and denied a CPG for Warner solar and terminated its Standard Offer contract.

Of course, that decision, including that a utility sponsored upgrade entirely unrelated to the solar facilities in question can cause two projects to become one has generated, and will continue to generate, litigation in the federal and state courts and at FERC, against the PUC, GMP and VEPP Inc., and possibly Global Foundries.

But that example goes to show you that the PUC's goal is to kill Standard Offer projects, turn all development over to GMP, and it is not designed to save ratepayers any money.

As for the ISO-NE PP5 procedures themselves, Allco has a pending complaint filed at FERC against those procedures. For anyone interested, the FERC docket number is EL25-43. In a nutshell, we contend that the PP5 procedures are unlawful under the Federal Power Act because they require distribution generators to pay for transmission studies and possibly transmission upgrades. Allco also contends that they are unnecessary in any case for the reasons stated by our expert witness in the case, who is the former head of the distribution department of Eversource Energy.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Thomas Melone
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Allco Renewable Energy Limited