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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding Policies, Procedures and Rules for the California Solar Initiative, the Self-Generation Incentive Program and Other Distributed Generation Issues.

Rulemaking 12-11-005  
(Filed November 8, 2012)

**DECISION REGARDING NET ENERGY METERING INTERCONNECTION  
ELIGIBILITY FOR STORAGE DEVICES PAIRED WITH NET ENERGY  
METERING GENERATION FACILITIES**

## Table of Contents

| Title  | Page |
|--|------|
| DECISION REGARDING NET ENERGY METERING INTERCONNECTION ELIGIBILITY FOR STORAGE DEVICES PAIRED WITH NET ENERGY METERING GENERATION FACILITIES ..... | 1    |
| 1. Summary.....  | 2    |
| 2. Background .....  | 3    |
| 2.1. Net Energy Metering Program .....   | 3    |
| 2.2. Current NEM Interconnection Eligibility for Storage Devices Paired with NEM Generation Facilities .....                                       | 5    |
| 3. Procedural Background.....  | 5    |
| 4. NEM Eligibility .....   | 6    |
| 4.1. Comments .....  | 8    |
| 4.2. Discussion .....  | 10   |
| 5. Storage System Sizing Units .....   | 12   |
| 5.1. Proposed Sizing Limits .....  | 12   |
| 5.2. Comments and Reply Comments.....  | 12   |
| 5.3. Discussion .....  | 14   |
| 6. NEM Integrity and Metering Requirements .....   | 15   |
| 6.1. Background .....  | 15   |
| 6.2. Comments .....  | 16   |
| 6.2.1. Metering Requirements .....   | 17   |
| 6.2.2. Comments.....   | 17   |
| 6.2.3. Discussion.....   | 19   |
| 7. Reporting .....   | 22   |
| 7.1. Proposed Reporting Requirements .....   | 22   |
| 7.2. Comments .....  | 23   |
| 7.3. Discussion .....  | 24   |
| 8. Net Energy Metering Transition Period .....   | 25   |
| 9. Safety Considerations .....   | 26   |
| 9.1. Comments .....  | 27   |
| 9.1.1. Interconnection Safety .....  | 27   |
| 9.1.2. Safety on Customer Premises .....   | 28   |
| 9.2. Discussion .....  | 29   |

**Table of Contents (cont.)**

| <b>Title</b>   | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| 10. Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) Interconnection Deadlines ..... | 31          |
| 11. Comments on Proposed Decision.....                                       | 32          |
| 12. Assignment of Proceeding.....  | 32          |
| Findings of Fact .....   | 32          |
| Conclusions of Law.....  | 34          |
| ORDER .....  | 38          |

**DECISION REGARDING NET ENERGY METERING INTERCONNECTION  
ELIGIBILITY FOR STORAGE DEVICES PAIRED WITH NET ENERGY  
METERING GENERATION FACILITIES**

**1. Summary**

*On April 30, 2013, the California Energy Commission issued the seventh edition of the Renewables Portfolio Standard Eligibility Guidebook (Guidebook), which included a new section on energy storage technologies. Section III.G of the Guidebook established two categories of energy storage that may be considered an addition or enhancement to a renewable system eligible for net energy metering (NEM). This section of the Guidebook created some uncertainty with respect to whether storage devices paired with NEM-eligible generation facilities that meet the Guidebook requirements are exempt from interconnection application fees, supplemental review fees, costs for distribution upgrades, and standby charges as additions or enhancement to NEM-eligible systems.*

Through this decision, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) clarifies existing policy that storage devices that are 1) paired with NEM-eligible generation facilities, and 2) meet the Guidebook requirements to be considered an "addition or enhancement" to NEM-eligible systems are exempt from interconnection application fees, supplemental review fees, costs for distribution upgrades, and standby charges when interconnecting under the current NEM tariffs.

In order to ensure the integrity of the NEM program, this decision places certain limitations on storage system sizing and implements metering requirements. In addition, the Commission shall require the electric utilities to gather data to determine the impact of interconnected storage on the distribution system.

Commission Rulemaking 11-09-011 addressing Rule 21 is taking a comprehensive examination of the safety of interconnected storage as it interacts

with the grid, and it would be inefficient to duplicate that effort in this proceeding. Although the safety of storage devices on customer premises is addressed by numerous standards, rules and regulations, there is a lack of coordination at the state level. In order to facilitate a more cohesive set of standards and practices, we direct the Commission staff to work with state entities such as the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to develop a set of best practices for permitting as a resource for the local authorities. Finally, this decision extends the deadline to submit an incentive claim application for affected Self-Generation Incentive Program projects to 120 days after the revised NEM tariffs are approved.

## **2. Background**

### **2.1. Net Energy Metering Program**

The Net Energy Metering (NEM) program was created by Assembly Bill (AB) 656<sup>1</sup> and has been modified numerous times. The NEM program is an electricity tariff billing mechanism designed to facilitate the installation of renewable distributed generation by offering customers retail-rate billing credits for energy exported to the grid at times when generation exceeds onsite energy demand. In Decision (D.) 02-03-057, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) determined that Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) Section 2827 was intended to exempt NEM program participants, as customer-generators, from interconnection application fees, supplemental review fees, and costs for distribution upgrades. Pub. Util. Code § 2827 also explicitly exempts NEM program participants from standby charges.

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<sup>1</sup> Ch. 369, Statutes of 1995.

In 2011, Senate Bill (SB) 489<sup>2</sup> expanded the technologies eligible for the NEM tariff to include all Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS)-eligible technologies.<sup>3</sup> Specifically, Pub. Util. Code. § 2827(b)(11) provides that a renewable electrical generation facility “means a facility that generates electricity from a renewable source listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 25741 of the Public Resources Code.” On April 30, 2013, the California Energy Commission (CEC) adopted the seventh edition of the RPS Eligibility Guidebook (Guidebook). This latest edition of the Guidebook includes a new section on energy storage technologies, Section III.G, which clarifies the conditions under which a storage device may be considered an addition or enhancement to a renewable electrical generation facility per California Public Resources Code (Cal. Pub. Resources Code) Section 25741(a)(1).<sup>4</sup>

Section III.G establishes two categories of energy storage that “may be considered an addition or enhancement to a renewable electrical generation facility”: “integrated” and “directly connected.” Integrated energy storage is described as “[m]ethods of storing energy from a renewable energy resource that are integrated into the renewable electrical generating facility as part of the generation process...” For battery-based storage, the Guidebook further elaborates that “the storage device must only be capable of storing energy from

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<sup>2</sup> Ch. 593, Statutes of 2011.

<sup>3</sup> At that time, Pub. Util. Code § 2827 (b)(5), which has been renumbered to Pub. Util. Code § 2827 (b)(11) since modification of the statute in 2013.

<sup>4</sup> The RPS Eligibility Guidebook (7th Edition, April 2013) is available at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/renewables/documents/#rps>.

the renewable generator” to be considered “integrated.”<sup>5</sup> For a storage device to be deemed “directly connected,” it must be both directly connected to the renewable generator via an internal power line (i.e., power may not be transmitted from the renewable facility to the energy storage via an external distribution line) and the storage device must be operated as part of the RPS eligible facility.<sup>6</sup>

## **2.2. Current NEM Interconnection Eligibility for Storage Devices Paired with NEM Generation Facilities**

Currently, the electric utilities require that storage devices paired with NEM-eligible facilities interconnect under the Multiple Tariff Facilities provision of their NEM tariffs. Under this provision, storage devices are treated by the utilities as distinct non-NEM-eligible generators, and are therefore not exempted from a variety of charges that do not apply to NEM eligible generating facilities. These charges include the \$800 interconnection application fee, supplemental review fees for facilities that do not qualify for fast track interconnection, standby charges, and the costs of any distribution system upgrades triggered by the addition of the generating facility to the local circuit. Electric Tariff Rule 21 (Rule 21) governs the interconnection process and requirements of these paired storage and generation systems.

## **3. Procedural Background**

On October 17, 2013, Commissioner Michael Peevey issued an Assigned Commissioner Ruling (ACR) addressing the eligibility of storage devices paired

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<sup>5</sup> Guidebook at 64.

<sup>6</sup> Guidebook at 65.

with NEM-eligible generation facilities that meet Guidebook requirements as additions or enhancements to NEM-eligible systems to be exempt from interconnection application fees, supplemental review fees, costs for distribution upgrades, and standby charges. The ACR proposed implementing system sizing limitations and metering requirements in order to ensure that NEM credits can only be generated by eligible renewable electric generation.

On November 1, 2013, California Solar Energy Industries Association (CALSEIA), SolarCity Corporation (SolarCity), California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE), San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E), Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. (IREC), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA), California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA), Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), The Utility Reform Network (TURN), Elke Brazel, Sunverge Energy, Inc. (Sunverge), OutBack Power Technologies (OutBack), and Charles Hewitt filed comments.

On November 8, 2013, Outback, SDG&E, CALSEIA, SolarCity, CESA, SCE, PG&E, ORA, IREC, Sunverge, and Charles Hewitt filed reply comments. On January 6, 2014, Commissioner Michael Peevey issued a subsequent ACR to solicit additional input into safety considerations for the interconnection of energy storage systems. On January 8, 2014 SCE, ORA, SDG&E, Charles Hewitt, Elke Brazel, CESA, IREC and SolarCity filed comments in response to the January 6, 2014 ACR.

#### **4. NEM Eligibility**

The October 17, 2013 ACR explained that storage devices paired with NEM-eligible generation facilities that meet the Guidebook requirements may exempt from interconnection application fees, supplemental review fees, costs

for distribution upgrades, and standby charges as additions or enhancements to NEM-eligible systems under the current NEM tariff.<sup>7</sup> These exemptions would apply to any storage device connected behind the same billing meter as the NEM generating system because this configuration meets the conditions of the "directly connected energy storage" category as described in the Guidebook.

However, in order to preserve the integrity of NEM, or in other words, in order to ensure that NEM credits can only be generated by eligible renewable electric generation, the ACR proposed that qualifying systems meet certain configuration and metering requirements. To achieve this goal, the ACR suggested that the metering requirements in the NEM Multiple Tariff (NEM-MT) serve as the standard to ensure that only NEM-eligible generation receives NEM credit. Under the NEM-MT provision, the customer-generator must 1) install a non-export relay on the non-NEM generator(s); 2) install Net Generation Output Metering (NGOM) for the NEM-eligible generation, meter the load, and meter total energy flows at the point of common coupling; or 3) install interval NGOM directly to the NEM-eligible generator(s). The ACR recognized however, that there might be some instances where these metering requirements should not necessarily apply and sought party comment.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> See October 17, 2013 ACR at 1.

<sup>8</sup> The ACR requested that interested parties comment on the following questions:

1. For single inverter systems, or other system configurations that do not allow NGOM, should the Commission consider estimated NEM generation as a means to limit NEM export credits during peak periods?
2. Should the Commission consider a threshold storage capacity below which NGOM is not required for the NEM generator? If so, what is an appropriate threshold and should the threshold be based on absolute capacity or in relation to customer load and the NEM generator capacity?

*Footnote continued on next page*

The ACR proposed that exemption from stand-by charges, interconnection application and review fees for NEM-paired storage would be tested on a provisional basis for systems connecting by December 31, 2015, during which time the utilities should record data related to this exemption and provide this to the Commission.

#### **4.1. Comments**

CCSE, IREC, Outback, CESA, SolarCity, SEIA, Charles Hewitt, ORA and Sunverge support the Commission's proposal to exempt NEM-paired storage. Sunverge argues that storage integrated with renewables behind a customer meter is considered to provide the highest operational value when connecting renewables to the grid because of the ability to manage loads and to smooth power quality issues related to intermittent renewables. IREC supports the Commission's goal of maintaining NEM credit for energy generated by eligible renewable electric generation to ensure the integrity of the NEM tariff protocols.<sup>9</sup> CESA, SolarCity and SEIA strongly support the proposal in the ACR because it is a quick resolution to what these parties allege to be the utilities current illegal practice of charging interconnection fees for storage paired with a NEM generator. All three argue that such exemptions are legally required under Cal. Pub. Resources Code § 25741(a) and D.02-03-057. CALSEIA also supports the proposal to exempt interconnected storage, but alternatively argues that such storage should not be charged any interconnection fees because of the mere fact

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3. Should NGOM be required for customers who are not on time-varying rates?

<sup>9</sup> IREC's proposed metering requirements and system sizing limits will be discussed in detail below.

that customer-generators have simply integrated what is essentially a home uninterrupted-power-source into their solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

TURN generally supports the promotion of combined storage technologies but voiced concerns that the ACR goes too far in favor of the NEM customer-generator and storage provider. TURN suggests the Commission impose a limit on revenue losses to be evaluated annually. TURN also recommends that the exemption end automatically on December 31, 2015, unless reauthorized by the Commission. SCE supports the proposal for a temporary exemption of interconnection-related costs for certain NEM-paired storage under certain circumstances but asks that the Commission not to allow the exemption to potentially continue indefinitely.

Although PG&E does not oppose providing subsidies for Rule 21 interconnection fees, studies, standby and upgrade costs for residential customers with a renewable generating facility paired with storage meeting Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) requirements for the proposed trial period, it strongly opposes providing subsidies to all storage installations combined with NEM generation. PG&E contends that the "addition or enhancement" language should not be interpreted as an expansion of the definition of "renewable generator" and argues that the Commission should not reference the RPS Guidebook modifications as a basis to grant storage an additional subsidy.

SDG&E opposes granting exemptions to interconnected storage because it shifts the burden to non-participants. SDG&E argues that the Commission should first pose the question of whether or not energy storage is a NEM-eligible technology. SDG&E further contends that existing transparent subsidies, paired

with the Commission's recently adopted storage mandate, adequately incent deployment of distributed storage technologies.

#### **4.2. Discussion**

Pub. Util. Code § 2827(b)(11) provides that a “Renewable Electrical Generating Facility” (which generates electricity from a renewable source) is NEM eligible for interconnection but defers the actual definition of a renewable source to the Cal. Pub. Resources Code § 25741(a)(1).<sup>10</sup> Under the Guidebook, a storage device may be considered an addition or enhancement to a renewable generation facility so long as it can be classified as integrated or directly connected energy storage.<sup>11</sup> We therefore find that the Guidebook allows storage devices, which meet the Guidebook definition of "integrated" or "directly connected energy storage," to be treated as an enhancement or addition to NEM eligible facilities.

We clarify here that the storage device, when paired with a NEM-eligible generator, is an addition or enhancement and is not a “Generator” as defined under the Rule 21 interconnection tariff and thus should not be treated as such for interconnection purposes.<sup>12</sup> The definition of a “Generating Facility,” in Rule 21,

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<sup>10</sup> The relevant section reads: "Renewable electrical generation facility" means a facility that meets all of the following criteria: (1) The facility uses biomass, solar thermal, photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, fuel cells using renewable fuels, small hydroelectric generation of 30 megawatts or less, digester gas, municipal solid waste conversion, landfill gas, ocean wave, ocean thermal, or tidal current, and any additions or enhancements to the facility using that technology.

<sup>11</sup> We note that the Guidebook’s use of the word “may” does not require such treatment but it permits such treatment.

<sup>12</sup> This decision takes no position on the treatment of behind-the-meter stand-alone storage facilities under Rule 21.

includes a generator plus an addition or enhancement. Therefore, a generating facility, as a single entity, which includes a NEM-eligible generator and a storage device, can interconnect using the Rule 21 tariff.

Interconnection of integrated or directly connected energy storage behind the meter has encountered barriers because the investor-owned utilities (IOUs) concluded such systems were not NEM eligible and imposed additional requirements in order for the paired renewable generator to be NEM-eligible. We disagree with IOUs' conclusions and would have preferred that the IOUs had taken a more proactive and collaborative approach to avoid creating barriers. Because Cal. Pub. Resources Code § 25741 allows storage devices paired with NEM-eligible generation facilities and meeting the Guidebook requirements to be considered an "addition or enhancement" to NEM-eligible systems under Section III.G of the Guidebook, we hold that they are exempt from standby charges, interconnection application and review fees and costs for distribution system upgrades when interconnecting under the current NEM tariffs.

In comments and reply comments to the Proposed Decision, parties raised concerns as to whether the utilities should refund interconnection costs to customers who paid to interconnect NEM-eligible systems prior to this decision. We agree that the interconnection costs should be refunded for customers who sought to interconnect NEM-eligible systems with integrated or directly connected storage.

In order to preserve the integrity of NEM, we shall require systems to meet certain requirements. Systems must meet certain sizing requirements set forth below in detail in Section 5. In addition, systems shall be required to adhere to the metering requirements in Section 6.

## **5. Storage System Sizing Units**

### **5.1. Proposed Sizing Limits**

The ruling proposed that qualified NEM-paired storage systems be subject to the same system sizing requirements that are currently in place with the SGIP. More specifically, under Section 4.4.3 of the SGIP Handbook, regarding system sizing for energy storage, it states that:

Advanced Energy Storage (AES) projects coupled with generation technologies must be sized no larger than the rated capacity of the PV or SGIP eligible technology it is operating in concert with. When coupled with a PV system, the rated capacity of the AES system can be no larger than the CEC-AC [alternating current] rating of the PV system, which is the rated AC output of the PV system including inverters.

### **5.2. Comments and Reply Comments**

CCSE opposes storage system sizing limits because inverter capacity is typically the limiting factor. As a result, CCSE believes that there is little to no remaining inverter capacity available to discharge a significant amount of storage energy that may have come from the grid during off-peak hours. CALSEIA, SEIA and Sunverge Energy strongly oppose a size capacity limitation based on paired renewable capacity contending such limitation would discourage the storage market. CALSEIA contends that sizing limits cannot be reasonably created to meet the unique needs of individual customers. SEIA suggests that at minimum, systems of 5 kilowatt (kW) and smaller should not be subject to system size limits. SolarCity also disagrees with limiting size capacity and asserts such a limitation is unnecessary for systems of 5 kW or smaller because the SGIP Handbook already provides for an exemption from system sizing requirements. Instead, SolarCity suggests instituting an exemption for

battery systems of 10 kW and smaller. SolarCity explains that because there are limited battery sizes available below 10 kW, an exemption makes sense.

CESA opposed the proposal arguing that the available battery size options are too limited to impose such a requirement. They further contend that such a requirement is contrary to both good engineering design practice and the desired benefits of using energy storage. CESA proposes instead that the sizing requirement instead be a ratio of not more than 12:1 in terms of maximum discharge power to maximum renewable generator power.

Although IREC supports the principle behind imposing size capacity limitations, IREC proposed an alternative approach that it argues takes into account the need to preserve NEM integrity and storage sizing limits.<sup>13</sup> IREC asks the Commission to limit the size of storage systems relative to NEM-generators based on the amount of energy stored in the battery relative to the daily peak output NEM-generator. They provide an example of a 4 kW PV system that has a maximum daily output of 50 kWh (kilowatt hour) and suggest that the sizing requirement be based on this kWh quantity plus expected losses, for a maximum size of 58 kWh. IREC contends this approach would be easier to implement and more equitable.

PG&E and SDG&E support sizing limitations. PG&E suggests that the Commission modify the size capacity limits proposed and instead limit storage system size based on the lesser of the NEM-eligible generator capacity or the on-site customer maximum demand. SDG&E also suggested the Commission modify the size capacity limits proposed. SDG&E proposed that the storage

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<sup>13</sup> IREC makes this proposal as an alternative to both requiring NGOM and imposing size capacity limitations.

system be sized to the AC nameplate of the NEM-generator's inverter and from an energy perspective that the storage device should be no larger than the energy production of the NEM-generator on a single day. Outback suggested a sizing capacity limit of not more than 12:1 in terms of maximum discharge power to maximum renewable generator power. Outback contends this ratio would be sufficient to allow the generator to produce enough energy in a single day to match typical energy needs and round trip efficiency losses while also meeting the instantaneous power needs of the local loads being leveled or reduced.<sup>14</sup> ORA suggested that the sizing limit be consistent with current SGIP requirements.

### **5.3. Discussion**

The goal of this requirement is to set sizing requirements that ensure that the NEM-paired storage system is sized in such a way that it primarily functions to augment the value of the NEM-generator. With that in mind, IREC and SDG&E's proposals most clearly balance the practical needs of the system with this overarching goal. Also, SolarCity's argument that, given the nascent state of this industry, systems below 10 kW should not be subject to a system-sizing requirement is reasonable. As such, we adopt a system-sizing requirement where all NEM-paired storage systems with storage devices sized at 10 kW or smaller shall have no requirement to be sized to the customer demand or the NEM generator. For NEM-paired storage systems with storage devices larger than 10 kW we are persuaded by party comments to the October 17, 2013 ACR and to the Proposed Decision to modify our original proposal to require that a) the discharge capacity of the storage system shall not exceed the NEM

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<sup>14</sup> In reply comments, SolarCity agreed with Outback's proposal.

generator's maximum capacity, and b) the maximum energy discharged by the storage device shall not exceed 12.5 hours of storage per kW.<sup>15</sup>

To address general concerns regarding sizing limits for NEM-paired storage systems with storage devices larger than 10 kW, and to settle on a solution that balances parties' divergent recommendations while maintaining simplicity, we will require that NEM-paired storage systems with storage devices larger than 10 kW shall have a maximum output power no larger than 150% of the NEM generator's maximum output capacity.

## **6. NEM Integrity and Metering Requirements**

### **6.1. Background**

The ACR proposed that qualified NEM-paired storage systems should be configured and metered in order to ensure that NEM credit can only be generated by eligible renewable electric generation. To achieve this goal, the ACR suggested utilizing the metering requirements in the NEM-MT, the tariff applicable to customers that install NEM-eligible and non-NEM eligible technologies behind the same utility revenue meter, as the standard requirement to ensure that only NEM-eligible generation receives NEM credit. However, the ACR also posed three metering related questions:

1. Should the Commission consider estimated NEM generation as a means to limit NEM export credits during peak periods for single inverter systems, or other system configurations that do not allow NGOM?
2. Storage devices sized below a certain limit could pose a de minimis risk of harming NEM integrity. Should the Commission consider a threshold storage capacity below which NGOM is not required for

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<sup>15</sup> In opening comments, IREC suggested as an example of their proposal, a sizing limitation of 50 kWh for a 4 kW system.

the NEM generator? If so, what is an appropriate threshold and should the threshold be based on absolute capacity or in relation to customer load and the NEM generator capacity?

3. Because storage devices increase total consumption, customers on non-time-varying rates have no financial incentive to export energy for NEM credit, should NGOM be required for customers who are not on time-varying rates?

## **6.2. Comments**

Party comments generally support the Commission's goal of preserving NEM program integrity, but do not agree on how such integrity should be preserved. ORA commented that the ACR metering requirements and exceptions appear reasonable, but requests that the Commission consider alternative proposals, such as the use of smart meters that are lower cost than NGOM meters. SolarCity supports the ACR's proposal but suggested the Commission allow the use of a more cost-effective smart meter for net generation output metering and impose a cost cap of \$400 for all fees associated with the smart meter. While IREC also supported the Commission's effort to preserve NEM integrity, IREC suggested a hybrid approach that addresses both the Commission's need to preserve NEM integrity and sets appropriate storage system sizing limits through one requirement based on the size of the associated storage system, predicated on the storage system's net energy storage rather than on system capacity. Specifically:

- NGOM should be installed on all NEM-eligible generators that add storage capacity to their facilities where it is feasible to do so.
- For facilities that do install NGOM, system output qualifying under the NEM tariff should be limited to the output of the generating facilities without reference to the capacity of the associated storage facilities.

CESA and CALSEIA oppose the ACR's proposal. Both argue that such metering requirements are unnecessary and costly. We address each issue in detail below.

### **6.2.1. Metering Requirements**

The ACR proposed that qualified NEM-paired storage systems should be configured and metered in order to ensure that NEM credit can only be generated by the eligible renewable electric generation.

### **6.2.2. Comments**

CALSEIA and CESA oppose costly metering requirements. CESA argues there is currently no economic incentive to game the system. CESA contends that the Commission should allow estimation methodologies in lieu of metering solutions, not only for single inverter systems but ultimately for all NEM-eligible generators paired with energy storage that are below a specific size threshold.

PG&E, SDG&E, SCE, Sunverge, and Charles Hewitt oppose allowing an estimation methodology. TURN raised concerns that there is insufficient data available to determine whether or not estimated generation data should be used as a means to limit NEM export credits. TURN suggests that the Commission could potentially use existing data collected by Energy and Environmental Economics, Inc. SolarCity commented that an estimation methodology could be pursued in lieu of metering, and suggested two different methodological approaches that present different trade-offs.

Sunverge proposes the Commission adopt the following approach:

For NEM eligible storage systems integrated with renewables on the [direct current] DC side of a single inverter, a simple approach to discounting possible non-renewable energy from NEM credits is to measure the total (grid) energy drawn into the system with the total energy dispatched by the system on an annual basis to determine a de-rate factor that would then be applied during the annual NEM true-up period to site NGOM NEM credits. The point of storage

measurement is at or near the point where the inverter interconnects with the grid such that all AC energy into and out of the inverter can be measured directly. More specifically, the mathematical calculation is:

$$\frac{(\text{Annual Energy Dispatched to Grid} - \text{Annual Energy From Grid})}{\text{Annual Energy Dispatched to Grid}} = \% \text{ De-rate Factor}$$
$$\text{Adjusted Annual NEM Credits} = (\text{Annual NGOM Export Credits} * \% \text{ De-rate Factor})$$

The data acquisition system (DAS) should be capable of reporting kWh energy imported and exported by the inverter to an internet accessible data repository where utilities and customers alike can access and download the data in an appropriate format from which the de-rate factor can be calculated. For storage systems paired with renewables behind a single inverter with capacity that is 10 kW (AC) or less regardless of the quantity of inverters installed behind the billing meter, non-utility (5%) grade system integrated metering is both cost effective and appropriate for such small-scale applications. If greater accuracy is desired for renewable storage systems connected to a single inverter greater than 10 kW, a separate utility NGOM can be used per inverter to determine the de-rate factor. Multiple de-rate factors can be multiplied together to determine a single factor per billing meter.

Additionally, storage systems continuously consume some power to maintain system services similar to stand-alone renewable generators and should accordingly not be penalized for what could be considered de minimis consumption. Therefore, we propose that where the annual de-rate factor is determined to be 95% or higher, the customer should receive 100% of annual NEM credits. Setting an upper threshold will also keep utility administrative costs lower by reducing the amount of paperwork for systems strictly using renewable energy.

Both SDG&E and IREC contend that reliance on an estimate of NEM generation will be subject to many potential inaccuracies. IREC proposes instead that the Commission adopt a threshold, such that customers whose systems

cannot accommodate NGOM would be exempt from any additional monitoring requirements so long as the storage system has a net kWh output no greater than the net output during summer months of the PV system that qualifies under the NEM tariff, adjusted for expected system losses. Although SCE believes that NEM paired storage devices that include separate inverters should continue to adhere to the requirements stipulated in the Multiple Tariff section of SCE's NEM rate schedules, SCE stated that it will continue working with inverter manufacturers to develop a solution that will allow these systems to operate in a manner that preserves the integrity of NEM. Although SCE stated it would be willing to utilize a calculated methodology that is consistent with the Guidebook because it errs on the side of underestimating the renewable portion of the stored and exported electricity whenever possible, SCE contends that the development of such a methodology, however, should take place as part of a more robust review of storage in the existing rulemakings.

### **6.2.3. Discussion**

We are committed to preserving the integrity of NEM, and to that end, NEM-paired storage systems that qualify for NEM benefits must be configured and metered in order to ensure that NEM credit can only be generated by eligible renewable electric generation. With this in mind, we find that there are two categories of NEM-eligible renewable electric generation facilities (GFs), those with NEM-paired storage devices that exceed 10 kW (AC) maximum discharge capacity ("large" GFs) and those with NEM-paired storage devices at 10 kW (AC) and below maximum discharge capability ("small" GFs), with distinct metering requirements.

For a small NEM-eligible GF<sup>16</sup> with a NEM paired storage device, we find that the use of an estimation methodology based on a presumed generation profile of the GF's NEM generator to validate the eligible NEM credits accrued to the GF balances the Commission's priority of ensuring NEM integrity with a cost-effective solution. For these GFs, no additional metering equipment will be required to measure the actual storage or renewable output. However, the NEM credits accrued to a small GF in any interval shall be the lesser of the actual export by the GF to the utility or the estimated presumed generation profile of the NEM generator.

The Commission will issue a separate ruling in the R.12-11-005, after this decision is issued, describing the process for finalizing the presumed generation profile based estimation methodology for eligible NEM generators and incorporating it into a revised NEM tariff to be applied to small NEM-paired storage GFs. Parties will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed estimation methodology prior to a Commission decision.

Large NEM-eligible GFs with NEM-paired storage devices (that exceed 10 kW AC maximum discharge capability) shall be required to adhere to metering requirements similar to those in the NEM-MT.<sup>17</sup> We find that such metering requirements will effectively ensure that only NEM-eligible generation receives NEM credit.

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<sup>16</sup> As noted on page 10 of this decision, a GF, for interconnection purposes, includes a generator plus an addition or enhancement.

<sup>17</sup> Under the NEM-MT provision, the customer-generator facility must 1) install a non-export relay on the non-NEM generator(s); 2) install NGOM for the NEM-eligible generation, meter the load, and meter total energy flows at the point of common coupling; or 3) install interval NGOM directly to the NEM-eligible generator(s).

Large NEM paired storage GFs will be required to: 1) install a non-export relay on the storage device(s); 2) install an interval meter for the NEM-eligible generation, meter the load, and meter total energy flows at the point of common coupling; or 3) install interval meter directly to the NEM-eligible generator(s). We also find that SolarCity's proposal to impose a cost cap is reasonable. We shall require the utilities to use their best efforts to install standard metering equipment whenever possible while interconnecting large GFs and will impose a \$600 limit for fees associated with this metering requirement. However, the metering cost cap shall not apply to large GFs requiring more complex metering solutions to capture the required data for validating eligible NEM credits.

Although we recognize that certain single inverter large GFs with NEM-paired storage devices may not be able to accommodate the metering requirements as described above, we choose not to provide an alternative metering solution for such configurations at this time. Therefore, all large NEM-paired storage GFs shall conform to the metering requirements described above.

Small NEM-eligible GFs with paired storage devices (at 10 kW (AC) or less maximum discharge capacity) may, at the system owner's option, adhere to the metering requirements prescribed for large NEM-paired storage GFs when it is technically feasible to do so.

The NEM Tariff shall be modified to incorporate the sizing and metering requirements, including the estimation methodology,<sup>18</sup> described in this decision

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<sup>18</sup> Subsequent to Commission adoption of the estimation methodology.

for NEM-paired storage GFs, both small and large. This modified tariff shall apply to all NEM-paired storage GFs, even those currently interconnected.

In the interim period after approval of this decision and prior to the filing and approval of the revised NEM Tariff, we direct the IOUs to process requests for interconnection of large NEM-paired storage GFs (satisfying the sizing limits prescribed earlier), and small GFs electing this option, by applying the existing NEM tariff to the GF for fee purposes and the existing NEM-MT tariff for metering purposes, but subject to the above described metering cost cap where applicable. After the approval of the revised NEM tariff, these systems shall be deemed to have connected under the revised tariff, but otherwise shall remain unaffected.

With respect to small NEM-paired storage GFs seeking to interconnect prior to Commission adoption of an estimation methodology, small NEM-paired storage GFs may choose to seek interconnection under the existing NEM tariff without being subject to any metering, sizing, or NEM integrity validation requirements and we direct the IOUs to process such requests. However, once the revised NEM tariff filing is approved, these systems shall be deemed to have connected under the revised tariff and be subject to any estimation methodology incorporated into the revised tariff for NEM integrity validation on a going forward basis.

## **7. Reporting**

### **7.1. Proposed Reporting Requirements**

The ACR proposed that the IOUs would be required to record data related to the foregone revenues resulting from this exemption and provide this information to the Commission. The utilities would be required to record

interconnection cost data resulting from the treatment of NEM-paired storage disaggregated into, at a minimum, the following three categories:

- 1) Interconnection Application Fees,
- 2) Supplemental Review Fees, and
- 3) Distribution system upgrades triggered by the presence of storage devices.

In addition, the report should also include information on storage devices interconnecting through March 31, 2015. The utilities should serve the report on the service list of this proceeding or its successor no later than June 30, 2015.

## **7.2. Comments**

SDG&E argues that the cost reporting and tracking are not adequate to track the cost shift created by giving energy storage devices the same benefits as NEM customers.

SolarCity believes that the Commission should only require the utilities track their actual costs of interconnection and nothing else. CALSEIA recommends modifying the reporting requirement to quantify grid benefits rather than grid costs. In addition, CALSEIA suggests that the Commission implement an incentive program to encourage customer generators to install NEM eligible storage systems.

ORA supports the reporting requirement proposed by the ACR, but contends that technically the utilities will not lose revenues because they will recover costs from other ratepayers. ORA recommends that the Commission specify that interconnection costs for storage systems be included in the report required by Resolution E-4610 at Ordering Paragraph 4.

TURN supports requiring the reports but contends that they should be required to provide an estimate of avoided costs, segregated by type and customer class, by March 31, 2014 for 2013 lost revenues and by March 31, 2015

for 2014 lost revenues. TURN contends that the Commission should terminate the program by the following June 30 if the lost revenues in either year exceed a cap of \$10 million.

### **7.3. Discussion**

Energy storage is in a nascent stage of development. Until the Commission and the IOUs gain more experience and data on interconnected storage, concerns regarding the impact of storage on the distribution system are speculative. In order to gain more information, we shall require the IOUs to record data on interconnection fee and distribution upgrade cost waivers resulting from the NEM-eligible interconnection of renewable-paired storage, consistent with the reporting requirements directed by Resolution E-4610 that commenced on November 2013. Data reporting will continue to adhere to the existing schedule for tracking NEM interconnection costs that was ordered in Resolution E-4610, with an additional reporting date to update the information on NEM-paired storage devices. Specifically, the IOUs must file an initial report on September 19, 2014, and file an update to the report no later than June 30, 2015. The reports shall include information on NEM-paired storage devices that are interconnected after the date of issuance of this decision, and the utilities shall serve their reports on the service list of this proceeding, or any successor proceeding concerning NEM. In order to promote greater transparency during the recording process, we direct the utilities to jointly file a Tier 2 Advice Letter detailing the cost categories being tracked pursuant to E-4610 within 30 days of the issuance of this decision. The Commission will utilize the information to determine whether or not it will need to modify or reexamine NEM-eligible interconnection of renewable paired storage by December 31, 2015. The Commission may choose to include a review of NEM-eligible interconnection of

renewable paired storage in the Commission's reevaluation of the NEM program as discussed below.

### **8. Net Energy Metering Transition Period**

On October 7, 2013, Governor Brown signed into law AB 327 (Perea). Pursuant to AB 327, the Commission issued a decision on March 27, 2014, that establishes a transition period during which customers taking service under the NEM tariff or contract prior to July 1, 2017, or the date that a large electrical corporation reaches its statutorily required NEM program limit, whichever comes first, can remain on the previously applicable NEM tariff. Eligible NEM-paired storage systems interconnected under NEM shall be subject to the same transition period.

In comments to the Proposed Decision, SDG&E noted that if NEM-paired storage is NEM-eligible, it should abide by the same program rules similar to other NEM-eligible technologies. More specifically, additions or modifications to transitioning systems should remain eligible for the remainder of their transition period so long as the generation capacity is increased by no more than the greater of 10 percent of the system's capacity (at the time the customer completes all application requirements to receive permission to operate) or 1 kW, not to exceed total generation capacity of 1 MW and is sized to meet but not exceed the customer's annual onsite load.

We agree that because storage paired with a NEM-eligible generating facility is an addition or enhancement of that system, it should be treated as part of that system and subject to the same program rules. In D.12-03-041 Commission stated that, "to the extent that energy storage systems are considered an addition or enhancement to a renewable electrical generation facility utilizing a NEM tariff, we find that they should be treated in the same

way, and subject to the same transition period, as the underlying renewable generation system to which they are connected. As a result, a system may remain eligible where storage capacity is increased by no more than 10 percent.

AB 327 also contemplates that the Commission develop a successor to the existing NEM tariffs by December 31, 2015, which will take effect July 1, 2017. We anticipate that the Commission may reevaluate the benefits of interconnected storage when interconnecting as an addition or enhancement to a NEM-eligible generator as it considers a successor to existing NEM tariffs.

## **9. Safety Considerations**

Although the October 17, 2013 ACR sought party comment on the relevant safety considerations specific to energy storage, party comments were limited and often lacked sufficient detail. On January 6, 2014, assigned Commissioner Peevey issued an ACR to solicit additional input on the safety considerations related to energy storage. The ACR prefaced its request for additional input with the knowledge that storage devices eligible to be considered an "addition or enhancement" to a renewable NEM-eligible system are required to meet the technical and safety standards for participation in SGIP and interconnection under Rule 21 in order to ensure safety during parallel operation with the utility distribution system.

In the Rule 21 Rulemaking (R.) 11-09-011, the Commission endeavors to balance the potential for advanced capabilities with the continuing paramount need to ensure safety for utility personnel and customers and reliability of the distribution network. The Commission remains very concerned with the safety and reliability impacts of storage devices on the utility distribution system as well as the safety impacts of such devices on customer premises. Therefore, the January 6, 2014 ACR sought additional information in two categories. The first

category pertains to the interaction of the storage device with the electric grid, both during times when the local distribution grid is operating normally and when the grid is experiencing an outage. Second, the ACR sought additional information regarding the safety concerns on the customer premises pertaining to the interaction of the storage device within the home/business environment, including issues such as adequate fire and grounding protections, proper installation, clear labeling and accessible manual disconnects for emergency responders.

## **9.1. Comments**

### **9.1.1. Interconnection Safety**

PG&E, SCE and SDG&E generally agree that Rule 21 sufficiently addresses safety and reliability concerns with the interaction of customer-side energy storage with the utility grid. PG&E identified some areas for improvement including the additional study of inverters that have multi-mode capability and storage devices that plan to transition from parallel operation to non-parallel operation. In addition, PG&E offered to work with the Commission to develop a process specifically to interconnect such projects in a timely and safe manner. SDG&E adds that the installation of energy storage devices on customer premises may affect the distribution system because these devices are capable of both charging and discharging energy. SDG&E cautions that the utility distribution system must be appropriately sized to minimize power quality impacts to customers, and ensure safe and reliable operation of the distribution system. SDG&E contends that customers and the IOUs must collaborate to successfully implement energy storage in a manner that is safe and reliable.

Several parties including ORA, Outback Power, SolarCity, and IREC believe that safety and reliability concerns related to customer side energy

storage are addressed through Rule 21. Some argue this inquiry is duplicative given the Commission's efforts in the Rule 21 proceeding. IREC adds that in the Commission's Rule 21 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission proceeding, addressing Small Generator Interconnection Procedures, no significant issues have arisen to indicate that current rules aren't allowing adequate evaluation of safety.

### **9.1.2. Safety on Customer Premises**

SCE accepts the UL1741 (IEEE-1547) certification to demonstrate compliance with Rule 21 and SCE's interconnection handbook requirements. SCE's interconnection agreements require customers to notify SCE prior to modifying their facilities. SCE seems to indicate these may be sufficient safeguards, but adds that the Commission should consider requiring that the design of qualifying device/generating facilities prevents them from being intentionally or unintentionally modified in a manner that would compromise safety or bypass UL system protections. SDG&E understands that the National Electric Code and UL requirements address many of the safety issues for storage devices on customer premises. SDG&E adds that it treats energy storage no differently than other distributed generation resources and devices. For example, although SDGE believes concerns regarding the use of an electric vehicle battery for stationary storage are premature, SDG&E states such a storage device would have to meet acceptable certifications and follow the standards defined in Rule 21 to interconnect with the grid. Although PG&E did not specifically comment on whether existing rules and procedures adequately address safety impacts; PG&E stated several times that the utility relies on existing rules, standards and local permitting authorities for the safe operation of energy storage systems.

IREC points to steps taken by the state of Washington to prevent tampering and asks the Commission to engage stakeholders in a discussion of whether such steps would prove valuable in California.

With respect to customer-side safety and prevention of tampering with anti-islanding or other safety features, SolarCity contends there are already multiple layers of regulatory and safety review beyond simply using certified equipment. SolarCity cites Rule 21, UL certification, local permitting codes, and the California Electrical Code.

IREC suggests that the Commission engage the Office of the State Fire Marshall to work collaboratively with the Commission, utilities, storage companies and local fire departments to assure that new combinations of distributed generation and electricity storage will be subject to all reasonable safety precautions necessary to protect the public. Although SolarCity contends that existing rules and procedures provide a robust approach to address safety impacts of customer-sited energy storage, it believes there are opportunities for state-level action to improve the consistency of permitting approaches across jurisdictions. SolarCity recommends the Commission work with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to develop a set of best practices that seek to improve permitting and best practices for local authorities. SCE supports inter-agency collaboration and coordination on the safety issues identified by the Commission. SDG&E reiterates that collaboration among all parties is critical to a safe and reliable electric grid.

## **9.2. Discussion**

With respect to the safety of interconnected storage as it interacts with the grid, we find the safety standards set forth under Rule 21 to be sufficiently comprehensive. Eligible storage devices must continue to meet the technical and

safety standards required for interconnection under Rule 21 to ensure safety during parallel operation with the utility distribution system. This includes evaluation under the same technical interconnection standards currently applied to generating facilities not paired with storage. The Commission, in its Rule 21 R.11-09-011, is engaging in a comprehensive process to balance the potential for advanced capabilities with the continuing need to ensure safety for utility personnel and customers, and reliability of the distribution network.

The safety of storage devices on customer premises is addressed by numerous standards, rules, and regulations. National Electric Code and UL requirements address many of the safety issues for storage devices on customer premises. In addition, local permitting requirements and inspections provide additional oversight for the safe installation and operation of energy storage systems.

Several parties commented that while there are standards and rules addressing safety, there is a lack of coordination at the state level. We agree. In order to facilitate a more cohesive set of standards and practices, we direct Commission staff<sup>19</sup> to work with the state-wide entities such as the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the Office of the State Fire Marshall to identify existing best practices and, if necessary, develop a set of best practices to improve permitting and inspection by local authorities. The resulting best practices shall be posted on the Commission's website.

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<sup>19</sup> This team will be comprised of staff from the Safety Enforcement Division with input from Energy Division staff.

## **10. Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) Interconnection Deadlines**

The latest revision of the guidebook created uncertainty regarding the proper interconnection treatment of NEM-paired storage. The ACR proposed that the IOUs extend expiration deadlines for affected SGIP projects to submit incentive claim applications until 14 days after the issuance of this decision.

The majority of comments filed with respect to an extension of SGIP interconnection deadlines supported a longer extension varying in length from 60 to 120 days. No opposition was raised to extending the application termination deadlines.

Based on comments filed to the October 17, 2013 ACR, we extended the expiration date for affected SGIP projects to submit applications to claim the incentive to 120 days after the revised NEM tariffs are approved. Comments to the Proposed Decision generally supported the extension of 120 days but parties requested that this extension should be expanded to allow affected SGIP projects that have also reserved incentives from the CSI program to be allowed to also extend the expiration date of those associated reservations.<sup>20</sup> This request is reasonable. SCE added that it was not opposed to this proposal provided that the customer has a confirmed CSI reservation as of the effective date of the final decision. We agree and will expand the extension to affected SGIP projects that also have a confirmed CSI reservation as of the effective date of the final decision.

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<sup>20</sup> See Opening Comments of Sunverge Energy Inc., on the Assigned Administrative Law Judge's Proposed Decision Regarding Net Energy Metering Interconnection Eligibility for Storage Devices Paired with Net Energy Metering Generation facilities.

**11. Motions**

On January 8, 2014, Stem, Inc. moved for party status. This motion is granted.

**12. Comments on Proposed Decision**

The proposed decision of the Administrative Law Judge in this matter was mailed to the parties in accordance with Section 311 of the Public Utilities Code and comments were allowed under Rule 14.3 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Comments were filed on May 5, 2014 by CalSEIA, CCSE, CESA, ORA, Outback, PG&E, Powertree, SCE, SDG&E, SEIA, SolarCity, STEM, Inc., Sunverge, TURN and VoteSolar and reply comments were filed on May 12, 2014 by CalSEIA, CCSE, CESA, PG&E, SDG&E, SEIA, SolarCity, SCE, Sunverge, and TURN. The Comments have been considered and appropriate changes have been made.

**13. Assignment of Proceeding**

Michael R. Peevey is the assigned Commissioner and Katherine MacDonald is the assigned ALJ in this proceeding.

**Findings of Fact**

1. The Commission created the California Solar Initiative to provide incentives and other support for solar PV systems in California. The Legislature codified and modified the program in SB 1.

2. AB 656 established the NEM program, an electricity tariff billing mechanism that provides customers with retail-rate billing credits for energy from renewable distributed generation exported to the grid when generation exceeds onsite energy demand.

3. SB 489 expanded the technologies eligible for the NEM tariff to include all RPS-eligible technologies.

4. On April 30, 2013, the California Energy Commission issued the seventh edition of the RPS Eligibility Commission Guidebook, which included a new section on energy storage technologies. Section III.G of the Guidebook established two categories of energy storage that may be considered an addition or enhancement to a renewable electrical generating facility.

5. Updates to the latest version of the Guidebook created uncertainty in the industry regarding the proper interconnection treatment of NEM-paired storage.

6. The Guidebook defines integrated energy storage at page 64. Integrated energy storage is defined to include methods of storing energy from a renewable energy resource that is integrated into the renewable electrical generating facility as part of the generating process. Further, the Guidebook states that integrated battery-based storage must only be capable of storing energy coming from the renewable generator.

7. The Guidebook, at page 65, defines a storage device as "directly connected" when it is both directly connected to the renewable generator via an internal power line and operated as part of the RPS-eligible facility.

8. The electric utilities currently require storage devices paired with NEM-eligible facilities to interconnect under the NEM-MT and treat the storage devices as distinct generators not eligible for the benefits provided to NEM-eligible facilities.

9. Under NEM-MT, the customer-generator facility must: 1) install a non-export relay on the non-NEM generator(s), 2) install NGOM for the NEM-eligible generation, meter the load, and meter total energy flows at the point of common coupling, or 3) install interval NGOM directly to the NEM-eligible generator(s).

10. Gathering additional data on the impacts of interconnection of renewable-paired storage will allow the Commission to gain additional information on interconnected storage and the impact of such storage on the distribution system.

11. In R.11-09-011, the Commission endeavors to balance the potential for advanced capabilities with the continuing paramount need to ensure safety for utility personnel and customers and reliability of the distribution network.

12. The Commission is engaging in a comprehensive review of safety and reliability concerns related to customer side energy storage in its Rule 21 rulemaking proceeding.

13. Eligible storage devices must continue to meet existing technical and safety standards required for interconnection under Rule 21 to ensure safety during parallel operation with the utility distribution system.

14. The safety of storage devices on customer premises is addressed by a number of standards, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to National Electric Code, UL requirements, local permitting requirements and safety inspections.

15. There is a lack of coordination of standards and rules addressing safety at the state level.

### **Conclusions of Law**

1. NEM-paired storage systems should be configured and metered in such a way as to ensure that NEM credit can only be earned by eligible renewable electric generation.

2. Pub. Util. Code § 2827(b)(11) provides that a renewable electrical generating facility means a facility that generates electricity from a renewable source listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) Cal. Pub. Resources Code § 25741.

3. Cal. Pub. Resources Code § 25741(a)(1) defines a renewable electrical generating facility as a facility that uses biomass, solar thermal, photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, fuel cells using renewable fuels, small hydroelectric generation of 30 megawatts or less, digester gas, municipal solid waste conversion, landfill gas, ocean wave, ocean thermal, or tidal current, and any additions or enhancements to the facility using that technology.

4. The seventh edition of the CEC RPS Guidebook, Section III.G clarifies the conditions under which a storage device may be considered an addition or enhancement to a renewable electrical generation facility pursuant to Cal. Pub. Resources Code § 25741(a)(1).

5. Storage when paired with a NEM-eligible generator, is an addition or enhancement to that NEM-eligible generating facility and is not a "generator" as defined under the Rule 21 interconnection tariff.

6. The utilities should refund interconnection costs paid by customers who paid to interconnect NEM-eligible generating facilities with paired storage prior to this decision.

7. The definition of a generating facility GF, for interconnection purposes, includes a NEM-eligible generator plus a storage device as an addition or enhancement.

8. NEM-paired storage systems with storage devices sized at 10 kW or smaller should have no requirement to be sized to the customer demand or the NEM generator.

9. NEM-paired storage systems with storage devices sized larger than 10 kW should have a maximum output power no larger than 150% of the NEM generator's maximum output capacity.

10. Qualified NEM-paired storage systems should be configured and metered in order to ensure that NEM credit can only be earned by the eligible renewable electric generation.

11. It is reasonable to adopt simpler and more cost-effective sizing and metering requirements to ensure NEM integrity for systems sized at 10 kW or less.

12. Small NEM eligible GFs (with storage sized at 10 kW (AC) or less) should be permitted to use an estimation methodology based on a presumed generation profile of the GF's NEM generator to validate the eligible NEM credits accrued to the GF.

13. The NEM credits accrued to a small GF in any interval should be the lesser of the actual export by the GF to the utility or the estimated presumed generation profile of the NEM generator.

14. Qualifying large NEM-eligible GFs (with paired storage systems larger than 10 kW (AC)) should be required to adhere to metering requirements similar to those in the NEM-MT tariff to ensure that only NEM eligible generation receives NEM credit. NEM-eligible GFs with storage devices sized at 10 kW or less should have the option to adhere to the metering requirements prescribed for large NEM-paired storage GFs when it is technically feasible to do so.

15. The NEM Tariff should be modified to incorporate the sizing and metering requirements described in this decision for NEM-paired storage systems, both for systems with storage devices greater than 10 kW (AC) maximum discharge capacity and those sized at or below 10 kW (AC) maximum discharge capacity upon Commission approval of an estimation methodology based on a presumed generation profile of eligible NEM generators. This modified tariff should apply to NEM-paired storage systems interconnected under the NEM Tariff.

16. In the interim period after the Commission approves this decision and prior to the filing and approval of the revised NEM tariff, the utilities should process requests for interconnection of large NEM-paired storage GFs (satisfying applicable sizing and metering requirements) by applying the existing NEM tariff to the GF for fee purposes and the existing NEM-MT tariff for metering purposes, subject to the adopted cost cap. Small GFs should also be permitted to elect this option.

17. After approval of the revised NEM tariff, systems shall be deemed to have connected under the revised tariff but should otherwise remain unaffected.

18. Small GFs seeking to interconnect prior to Commission adoption of an estimation methodology should be permitted to interconnect under the existing NEM tariff without being subject to any metering, sizing or NEM integrity validation requirements until the Commission adopts an estimation methodology that will be incorporated into a revised NEM tariff.

19. Without additional data, concerns regarding the impact of storage on the distribution system are speculative.

20. Beginning with the current cohort of pending storage interconnection requests, the IOUs should record interconnection cost data and distribution cost waivers resulting from the NEM-eligible interconnection of renewable-paired storage consistent with reporting requirements directed by Resolution E-4610.

21. D.12-03-041 held that to the extent that energy storage systems are considered an addition or enhancement to a renewable electrical generation facility utilizing a NEM tariff, that system should be treated in the same way, and subject to the same transition period as the underlying renewable generation system to which it is connected.

22. Eligible storage paired with a NEM-eligible generating facility should be treated as part of that system and subject to the same NEM program rules. As a result, a NEM-eligible generating facility may remain eligible under the same transition period where storage capacity is increased by no more than 10 percent.

23. The Commission staff should work with state-wide entities such as the Office of the State Fire Marshall and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to develop a set of best practices that seek to improve permitting for local authorities and should work to improve the coordination of standards and rule addressing safety at the state level. The resulting best practices should be posted on the Commission's website.

24. The expiration date for affected SGIP projects to file applications to claim incentives should be extended to 120 days after the Commission approves the revised NEM tariffs. The extension should also apply to the expiration date for incentive claims under the CSI program where the SGIP project has a confirmed CSI reservation as of the effective date of the final decision.

25. Stem, Inc.'s motion for party status should be granted.

## **O R D E R**

### **IT IS ORDERED** that:

1. Qualifying energy storage devices paired with Net Energy Metering (NEM)-eligible generation facilities that meet the Renewables Portfolio Standard Guidebook requirements as an addition or enhancement shall be exempt from interconnection application, supplemental review, distribution upgrade, and standby charges as additions or enhancements to NEM-eligible systems under the current NEM tariff.

2. The utilities shall refund interconnection costs to customers who paid interconnection costs to interconnect qualifying energy storage devices paired with Net Energy Metering-paired storage systems prior to the issuance of this decision.

3. Net Energy Metering (NEM)-paired storage systems with storage devices sized at 10 kilowatts alternating current or smaller shall have no requirement to be sized to the customer demand or the NEM generator.

4. For Net Energy Metering (NEM)-paired storage systems with storage devices larger than 10 kilowatts alternating current shall have a maximum output power no larger than 150% of the NEM-eligible generator's maximum output capacity.

5. Small Net Energy Metering (NEM)-eligible generating facilities, those with NEM paired storage devices sized at 10 kilowatts alternating current or less, shall utilize an estimation methodology based on a presumed generation profile of the generating facility's NEM generator as adopted by the Commission subsequent to this decision.

6. The Commission shall issue a separate ruling in this proceeding, Rulemaking 12-11-005, describing the process for finalizing the presumed generation profile based estimation methodology for eligible Net Energy Metering (NEM) generators to be incorporated into a revised NEM tariff for NEM-eligible generating facilities with NEM paired storage devices sized at 10 kilowatts alternating current or less.

7. Small Net Energy Metering-eligible generating facilities seeking to interconnect prior to Commission adoption of an estimation methodology may interconnect under the exiting NEM tariff without being subject to any metering, sizing, or NEM integrity validation until the Commission approves a revised

NEM tariff which incorporates the adopted estimation methodology. After approval of the revised NEM tariff, these systems shall be deemed to have connected under the revised tariff and be subject to any estimation methodology incorporated into the revised NEM tariff on a going forward basis.

8. NEM-eligible systems with storage devices sized at 10 kilowatts alternating current or less may, at the system owner's option, adhere to the metering requirements prescribed for NEM-paired storage systems larger than 10 kW when it is technically feasible to do so.

9. Large Net Energy Metering (NEM) paired storage systems, those with NEM-paired storage devices larger than 10 kilowatts alternating current, shall be required to: 1) install a non-export relay on the storage device(s); 2) install an interval meter for the NEM-eligible generation, meter the load, and meter total energy flows at the point of common coupling; or 3) install an interval meter directly to the NEM-eligible generator(s).

10. The investor-owned utilities shall use their best efforts to install standard metering equipment whenever possible while interconnecting Net Energy Metering-paired storage systems and must not charge more than \$600.00 for fees associated with this metering requirement. However, the fee cap does not apply to systems requiring complex metering solutions.

11. Within 30 days of the effective date of a Commission decision adopting an estimation methodology, the investor owned utilities shall file Tier 2 Advice Letters to update the Net Energy Metering (NEM) tariffs to incorporate the sizing and metering requirements described in this decision for NEM-paired storage systems.

12. During the interim period between Commission approval of this decision and prior to the filing and approval of the revised Net Energy Metering (NEM) tariff, the investor owned utilities shall process requests for interconnection of large NEM-paired storage generating facilities, that meet sizing and metering requirements in Ordering Paragraphs 4 and 9, by applying the existing NEM tariff for fee purposes and the existing NEM-MT tariff for metering purposes. Small systems may also elect this option. Upon approval of the revised NEM tariff, these systems shall be deemed to have connected under the revised tariff, but remain otherwise unaffected.

13. Prior to Commission adoption of an estimation methodology, small NEM-paired storage systems may seek interconnection under the existing NEM tariff without being subject to any metering, sizing, or NEM integrity validation requirements and we direct the IOUs to process such requests. Once the revised NEM tariff filing is approved, these systems shall be deemed to have connected under the revised tariff and be subject to any estimation methodology incorporated into the revised tariff for NEM integrity validation on a going forward basis.

14. The investor owned utilities shall, beginning with currently pending storage interconnection requests, record data on the interconnection application fee waivers, supplemental review fee waivers, distribution cost upgrade waivers, and standby charges waivers resulting from the Net Energy Metering-eligible interconnection of renewable-paired storage consistent with reporting requirements directed by Resolution E-4610.

15. The investor-owned utilities shall jointly file a Tier-2 advice Letter detailing the cost categories being tracked pursuant to E-4610 within 30-days of the issuance of this decision.

16. The investor-owned utilities shall file the reports set forth in Ordering Paragraphs 14 and 15 on September 19, 2014, and shall file an update to the reports no later than June 30, 2015. The reports shall include information on Net Energy Metering-paired storage devices that interconnect after the date of issuance of this decision and the reports shall be served on the service list of this proceeding, or its successor proceeding.

17. Safety Enforcement Division staff with input from Energy Division Staff shall work with appropriate state-wide entities such as, but not limited to, the Office of the State Fire Marshall and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, as appropriate, to develop a set of best practices to improve permitting and inspection by local authorities. The resulting best practices shall be posted on the Commission's website.

18. The expiration date for affected Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) projects to file applications to claim incentives shall be extended to 120 days after the revised Net Energy Metering tariffs, described in Ordering Paragraph 6 and 11, are approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The expiration date for affected SGIP projects to file applications to claim incentives under CSI, where affected SGIP projects also have reserved incentives from the CSI program is extended to 120 days after the revised NEM tariffs are approved the Commission provided these projects have a confirmed CSI reservation as of the effective date of this decision.

19. The motion of Stem, Inc. for party status is granted.

20. Rulemaking 12-11-005 remains open.

This order is effective today.

Dated May 15, 2014, at San Francisco, California.

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY

President

MICHEL PETER FLORIO

CATHERINE J.K. SANDOVAL

CARLA J. PETERMAN

MICHAEL PICKER

Commissioners