



Steering Committee Meeting #1 Summary

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Meeting convened at 2:00 PM EST.

Attendees:

Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce)

- Lisa Swoboda
- Jennifer Chiasson
- Thomas Evans

Matrix Design Group (Matrix)

- Mike Hrapla
- Pat Small
- Kurt Waldier

Steering Committee (Committee)

- See attached sign-in sheet

Discussion Points (By Agenda Item)

1. Project Overview

- Jennifer Chiasson from Commerce opened the meeting and provided background of the project and a brief overview
- Mike Hrapla from Matrix provided an overview of the Matrix Project Team and Matrix's extensive experience with this type of project
- Mike provided an expanded project overview

2. Roles & Responsibilities

- Mike reviewed the Steering Committee roles and expectations
 - o Provide guidance and feedback, plus review materials throughout the project
 - o Provide input as to how the GIS tool can provide value to each organization
 - o Approve the GIS mapping and Study recommendations

3. Process & Schedule

- Patrick Small from Matrix presented the project process
- Stakeholder interviews will begin in early March
- Requests for Information (RFIs) will be distributed to installations and applicable stakeholders
- Goal of the GIS mapping is to enhance the siting process to facilitate compatible renewable energy siting to support a balanced approach to economic development and preserving military capability

4. Next Steps

- RFIs won't be sent to each stakeholder on project. Some information will be acquired during discussions with individual stakeholders
- Stakeholder Interviews are upcoming in March – April timeframe
- Continued coordination with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Power Plant Research Program for the Smart DG+ integration

5. Questions / Comments

- **Andrew Gohn:** Presentation is all about renewables. Is there any consideration to nonrenewable energy in this study? For example, the new gas plant near APG.
- **Jennifer Chiasson:** We are interested in exploring all energy impacts to military operations in the state. The main focus will be on renewable energy siting. The Smart DG+ too is geared toward renewable energy siting.
- **Carl Pritchard:** Are we only looking at siting on federal property?
- **Jennifer Chiasson:** We are looking outside of federal property, i.e. outside the fenceline.
- **Tom Vinson:** Are we only looking at land-based wind, or both land-based and off-shore wind?
- **Jennifer Chiasson:** Both are considered as part of the study.
- **Jeffrey Browning:** What do you envision the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM's) role in the project?
- **Jennifer Chiasson:** we're hoping BOEM will provide guidance and feedback on the project
- **Andrew Gohn:** Are the tools resulting from this process for policy makers, military personnel, stakeholders?
- **Patrick Small:** The goal of this tool is to be comprehensive. It is intended to provide value to all stakeholders involved in the process.
- **Mike Hrapla:** The report and mapping is only as good as the information going into it. The mapping should evolve as new information is provided and updated.
- **Andrew Gohn:** It seems the mapping will make decisions for wind energy developers, rather than alter military decision making.
- **David Murray:** The notion of changing the planning process seems a little late in the game. There is already a significant amount of solar development currently going through the planning process in Maryland.
- **Mike Hrapla:** This process has to start at some point. This study is a long-range vision for future compatibility, intended to make the future better for all stakeholders involved.
- **David Murray:** How do large-scale solar facilities conflict or impact military operations? Particularly when you have potential to run into these conflicts in real-world situations?
- **Mike Hrapla:** There are secondary and tertiary factors to risk based on the mission. For example, some installations conduct training missions to teach student pilots. The mapping provides another level of data and information to consider when siting solar and wind. The goal is to start dialog between energy developers and the military earlier to reduce friction later on in the planning process.
- **Patrick Small:** In terms of the siting process changing, Matrix will review current processes and provide recommendations to improve processes to make it more efficient for review agencies and energy developers.
- **Steve Sample:** This effort will identify where those issues and conflicts may be.
- **Tom Vinson:** The renewable energy industry may get concerned by red-yellow-green maps. The siting process is complex. Would like to have a future discussion on what is intended by a red-yellow-green map.
- **Mike Hrapla:** This initiative started to address the type of complexities of siting wind and solar and assist in the process. May not result in a red-yellow-green map, that is more of an older concept of compatibility.

- **Jennifer Chiasson:** The tool will not make siting decisions for developers, but rather who to coordinate with prior to investing resources.
- **Jason Gillespie:** Military considerations are similar to other existing conditions, like endangered species or other general factors that must be reviewed during the siting process.
- **Andrew Gohn:** The Joint Land Use Study for Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS PAX) resulted in a loss of wind resources. Alternative energy in Maryland is already behind where the state should be due to constraints placed by military operations. There is concern that it will become too difficult to develop renewable energy in Maryland, particularly as technologies advance and wind turbines get taller.
- **Lisa Swoboda:** There have been issues previously with energy developers leasing land upfront and doing the due diligence after-the-fact. This may cause issues later on if that leased land presents concerns for the military.
- **Gal Kenson:** NAS PAX, Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head, and NSF Dahlgren are all unique to the U.S. Navy. There is nowhere else in the U.S. that has the capabilities of these installations.
- **Andrew Gohn:** Maryland is about 1,000 MW away from where the state should be at this point due to military obstacles. Recommend excluding off-shore intercontinental shelf wind resources from this study since these are international waters. May be duplicating the siting process with BOEM.
- **Jennifer Chiasson:** The DoD requested off-shore be included in this project.
- **Steve Sample:** The intent of the GIS mapping is to provide stakeholders all the information on a map with the full range of siting considerations. It is not intended to be a no-go or open land, but rather a method of sharing information to facilitate better decision making and investments.
- **Samual Beirne:** Who made the request for off-shore inclusion in the scope?
- **Jennifer Chiasson:** The Atlantic Test Range
- **Chris Jarboe:** Is there potential to rescope the project to exclude off-shore wind resources due to other tools available by BOEM?
- **Jennifer Chiasson:** We will have to evaluate this.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM EST.

* Organized alphabetically by last name.

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