



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2014

HAWAII PUC INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE HECO COMPANIES' ACTION PLANS

Honolulu -- The Hawaii Public Utilities Commission ("PUC" or "Commission") is inviting public comment to provide transparency and community input in the review of the "Power Supply Improvement Plans" ("PSIPs") and Distributed General Interconnection Plan ("DGIP") filed by the Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. ("HECO"), Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. ("HELCO"), and Maui Electric Company, Limited ("MECO") (collectively, the "HECO Companies") on August 26, 2014. These comments, which will be accepted through October 6, 2014, will assist the Commission in its initial review and assessment of the action plans.

Docket No. 2014-0183-- Power Systems Improvement Plans

In recent orders, the Commission directed the HECO Companies to produce PSIPs for each utility that addresses critical power supply resource issues in order to accommodate large amounts of variable renewable energy, reduce power supply costs, and provide significant customer rate relief. The PSIPs are to provide actionable strategies and implementation plans to 1) expeditiously retire older, less-efficient fossil generation; 2) reduce must-run generation; 3) increase generation flexibility; 4) adopt new technologies; and 5) institute operational practice changes.

The PUC requests prospective commenters to address whether the PSIPs provide clear and actionable strategies to:

- lower and stabilize customer bills;
- integrate a diverse portfolio of cost-effective renewable energy projects;
- operate each island grid reliably and cost-effectively with substantial quantities of variable renewable energy resources; and
- contain appropriate strategies and timely action plans, supported by well-reasoned and compelling analyses, to achieve these goals on each island.

Docket No. 2014-0192 – Distributed Generation Interconnection Plan

In a recent order addressing the Reliability Standards Working Group report, the PUC ordered the HECO Companies to develop technical solutions and action plans to increase distributed generation interconnection capability in major capacity increments. The order specifically required the HECO Companies to file DGIPs that included, at a minimum, the following general components: 1) a Distributed Generation Interconnection Capacity Analysis; 2) an Advanced Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Technology Utilization Plan; and 3) a Distribution Circuit Improvement Implementation Plan. The PUC also reiterated that the preferred course of action is to conduct such planning in a transparent manner with opportunity for stakeholder participation.

The PUC requests prospective commenters to address whether the DGIP plan provides clear and actionable strategies to:

- increase options for customers to manage energy use;
- increase distribution circuit capacity to safely, reliably, and economically interconnect distributed generation resources;
- utilize advanced distributed energy technologies to mitigate adverse grid impacts; and
- contain appropriate strategies and timely action plans, supported by well-reasoned and compelling analyses, to achieve these goals on each island.

Deadline and Procedures for Comment Submission

Interested persons may review the action plans, as well as related documents at the following link on the PUC's website: <http://puc.hawaii.gov/news-release/puc-receives-the-heco-companies-action-plans-to-achieve-state-energy-goals/>.

Public comments on these action plans will be accepted through October 6, 2014. Late filed submissions will not be accepted. Comments should be addressed to the attention of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission and clearly state that they are being filed as public comment in Docket No. 2014 0183 to address the PSIPs or Docket No. 2014-0192 to address the DGIP.

In lieu of the PUC's established E-filing procedures, public comments may be submitted by e-mail, as set forth below. Thus, public comments may be filed as follows:

- e-mail to hawaii.puc@hawaii.gov with the following subject line:
 - *"Public Comment – Docket No. 2014-0192 – DGIP – [Filer Name]"*
if submitting comments on the DGIP or
 - *"Public Comment – Docket No. 2014-0183 – PSIPs – [Filer Name]"*
if submitting comments on the PSIPs;
- first-class mail to the PUC at 465 S. King Street, Room 103 Honolulu, HI 96813;
- hand-delivery to the PUC during normal business hours of Monday – Friday between 7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; or
- E-Filing

The Commission's filing procedures may be reviewed at the following link:

<http://puc.hawaii.gov/filing/filing-docketed/>

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