

**Renewable Energy Development and Siting Task Force**  
**Sept. 6, 2019**  
**2PM**

**Agenda**

- Welcome
  - Welcome and attendance taken by Greg Snook
  
- From the Chair
  - Snook went over the mission of the task force.
  - Snook introduced the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) and David Tancabel, who then reviewed the Certificate of Public Convenience (CPCN) process.
  
- Presentation
  - Tancabel went through the presentation, while taking questions.
    - PPRP explained that one of the main questions that they are asked is, “How much land is needed to meet the solar carve out?”
      - PPRP estimates ~25,000 acres.
        - This figure does not include rooftop solar.
      - A range of 25,000-43,000 acres were discussed
  - PPRP explained smart siting, which gives developers an idea of where to put projects that reach the nexus of renewable resource availability, infrastructure proximity, and land suitability.
    - In 2015, in partnership with MEA, PPRP created the SmartDG+ program, which is a free, online GIS based tool.
      - PPRP is happy to demo the tool for anybody.
        - Les Knapp said that the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) has been working with PPRP to provide demos.
  - Jason Dubow wanted to know more about the designation and identification of agricultural land with high value soils.
    - Tancabel said that in their project assessment report, if it’s on specific soil it gets noted on the report, which goes to the Public Service Commission (PSC).
  - Snook asked how long it takes to go through the CPCN process and if it is the same process for each county.
    - Tancabel said it depends on the preparation of the developer. It could take 1+ years if developers need to keep submitting data.
  - Stephen Schatz asked if there is any conversation between the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) and PPRP about including priority funding or preservation areas in SmartDG+.
    - PPRP explained that the next step is to put the priority preservation areas for those counties that have adopted them into the SmartDG+ tool.
  
- Other Business
  - Snook said he is looking at hosting another call in the next 1-2 weeks.
  
  - Lewis brought up the need for more information on brownfields and landfills.

