

# MEA Solar Task Force Support

November 8, 2023

# Agenda

- Maryland Permitting Policy
- Net Metering
- Zoning and Siting
- Questions/Discussion



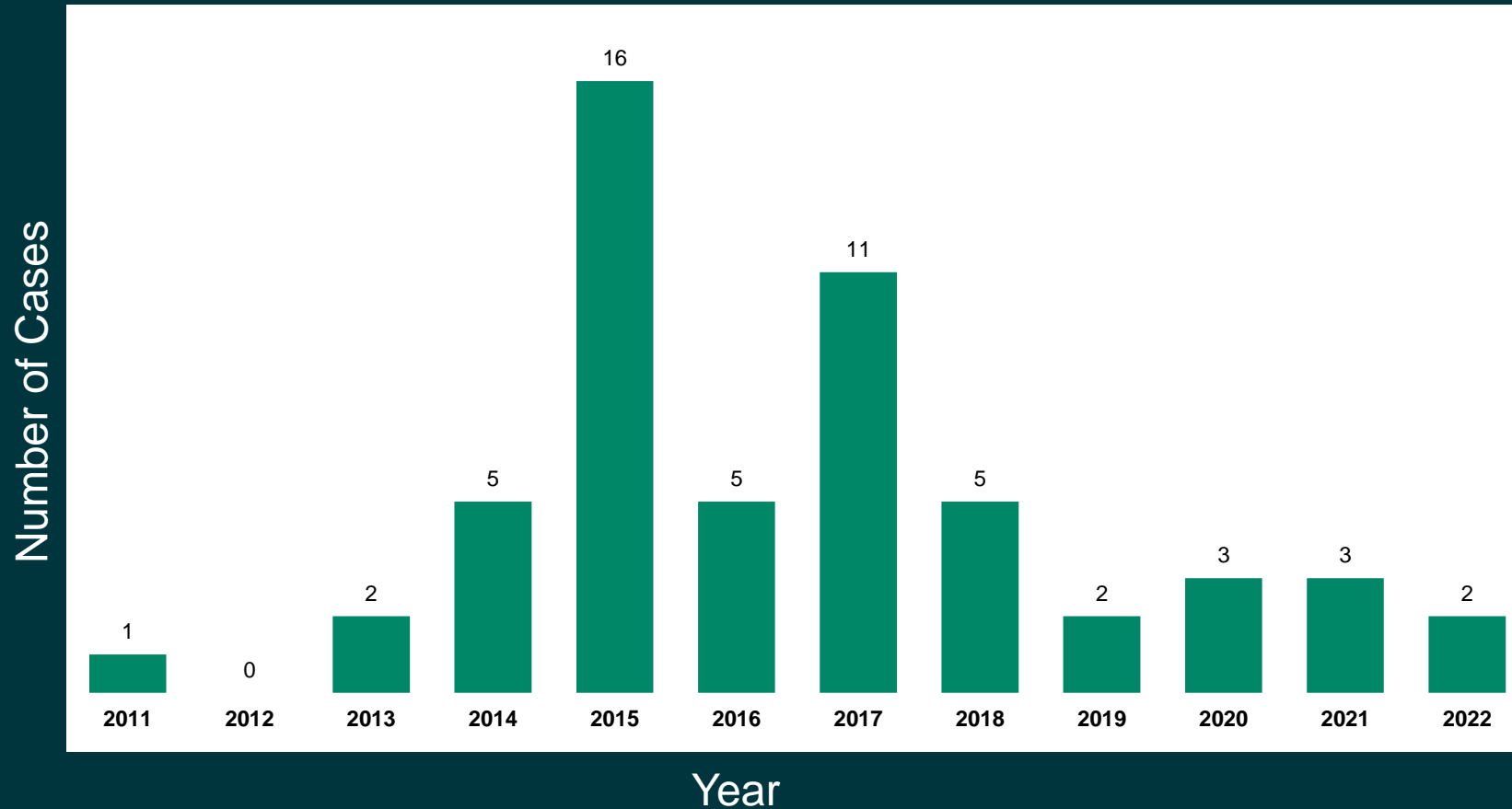
# Maryland Permitting Policy

# Maryland Permitting Policy Requirements

System Type	Building and Electrical Permit Required	Utility approval required	PJM Interconnection approval required	Maryland Public Services Commission Approval Required
Residential <10kW		✓		
Residential >10kW	✓	✓		
Commercial/Community Solar Behind-the-Meter <2MW	✓	✓		
Commercial/Community Solar/Utility Scale Front-of-the-Meter <2MW	✓	✓	✓	
Commercial/Community Solar/Utility Scale Front-of-the-Meter >2MW	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)

CPCN Cases by Year



# Peer State Comparison

State	Discrete Resource Approvals Requirement	Cost of Application	Timeline
Maryland	Renewable energy generation projects larger than 2MW	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Six months to two years for appeals process</li> </ul>
West Virginia	For construction of a Solar EWG facility and transmission lines of 200kV or greater	\$100/MW or \$40,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission will hold a hearing within 90 days of publication</li> <li>Final order within 150 days of the application filing date</li> </ul>
Florida	Steam of solar facilities producing over 75 MW constructed after 1973.	\$2,500 notice of intent fee, application fee shall not exceed \$200,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-application (notice of intent, needs determination, etc.)</li> <li>Certification process (public engagement, hearings, law judge recommendation, etc.)</li> </ul>
North Carolina	Renewable energy facilities between 2-80MW that will not be primarily used for your own use	\$250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>File application</li> <li>30-day review by gov't agencies</li> <li>Commission will schedule public hearing if there is a complaint</li> </ul>
Nevada	Renewable energy projects with an output greater than 70MW, transmission lines greater than 20kV	\$200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schedule pre-filing meeting with commission staff</li> <li>The commission has 150 days from filing to grant/deny application</li> <li>Application takes longer if federal environmental review required</li> </ul>
Georgia	A qualified facility, including solar producers under 80MW, must abide by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act to connect to Georgia Power	\$25,000 delivery study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bid into a capacity RFP if &gt;30MW</li> <li>Provide notice of intent if &lt;30MW</li> </ul>
Vermont	Certificate of Public Good required for electric generation facility over 500kW	Price varies per kW depending on facility size. Capped at \$15,000 if facility is between 50kW-5MW, capped at \$100,000 if >5MW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>45-day notice to file</li> <li>Procedural steps include site visit, public hearing, evidentiary hearing, and more</li> </ul>

# Net Metering



# Public Conference 44 (PC44) Phase IV: Objectives & Scope

Small Generator Facility Interconnection	Summary
<b>Stated Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete a targeted process review to ensure that electric distribution systems in Maryland are customer-centered, affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable.</li> <li>2. Interconnecting to the electric grid should be as smooth as possible for both residential and commercial solar generating systems</li> </ol>
<b>Scope</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Interconnection Jurisdiction</li> <li>2. Interconnection Facility Costs</li> <li>3. Maryland Smart Inverter Settings Standards</li> </ol>
<b>Possible Actions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Making statewide <b>Residential solar interconnection process</b> timely, electronic and customer-friendly</li> <li>2. Requiring / encouraging <b>smart inverters</b> for new systems</li> <li>3. Making statewide <b>non-Residential solar interconnection process</b> timely, electronic and customer-friendly</li> <li>4. Plan and timeline for each utility to publish feasible and useful <b>hosting capacity maps</b> like those produced by PHI.</li> <li>5. For interconnecting large and mid-size solar facilities: reviewing <b>cost allocation, grid access, and system upgrade costs</b> and <b>impact on future projects.</b></li> </ol>



# Public Conference 44 (PC44): Recommendations

	Summary
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Commission accept the Workgroup’s Maryland <b>MSDS</b> proposal as described in Table No. 4 of the Workgroup’s Phase III report and officially note its acceptance in a motion.</li><li>2. Commission approve <b>Phase IV</b> regulation proposals as described in <b>Appendix E</b> and schedule a rulemaking session to codify regulations to be effective before the end of 2022.</li><li>3. <b>MCAM</b> proposal be extended into <b>Phase V</b>.</li><li>4. Interconnection issues associated with <b>PJM’s FERC Order No. 2222</b> compliance filing, or were raised by Workgroup stakeholders be considered in <b>Phase V</b>.</li></ol>

MSDS = Minimum Statewide Default Standards

MCAM = Office of People’s Counsel’s Maryland Cost Allocation Model

# Utility Interconnection Application Fees

Nameplate Capacity	Exelon Utilities & Potomac Edison	SMECO
Level 1: 10kW or less and inverter-based	No fee	No fee
Level 2: 2MW or less, radial distribution circuit or spot network serving one customer	\$50 + \$1/AC inverter rating KW	\$260
Level 3: area networks (50kW or less), radial distribution circuits (10MW or less)	\$100 + \$2/AC inverter rating kW	\$260
Level 4: 10MW or less and not Level 1, 2, or 3	\$100 + \$2/AC inverter rating kW	\$950

# Zoning and Siting

## Peer State Comparison

### Maryland

- PSC grants CPCNs
- Considerations given to local zoning ordinances and public input

### Virginia

- Permit-by-Rule pathway for certain projects up to 150MW
- Generation-specific permitting not required for projects less than 5MW

# Governance of Solar Siting

## DNR Power Plant Research Program (PPRP)

- Develops information on the state solar sector for regulatory bodies, developers, and the public
- Combines land use survey information with geospatial data

## Public Service Commission

- Only determining authority for siting of solar power generation assets
- Considers PPRP and local zoning ordinances in CPCN proceedings

## Local Governments (Zoning Ordinances)

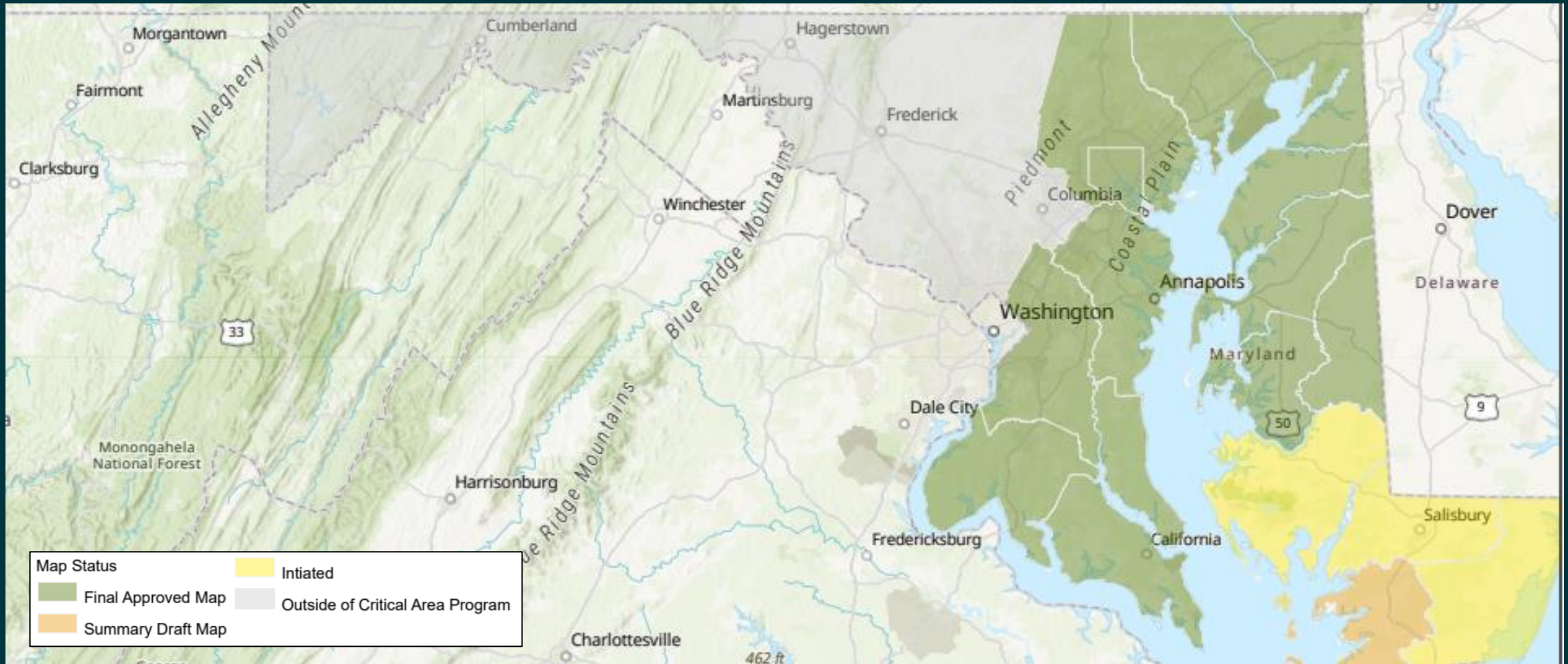
- Most counties have zoning regulations intended to guide renewable energy developments
- Established locally as there is no state-wide standard

## Relevant Regulations – Environmental Conservation

- Maryland law requires environmental impacts consideration in CPCN determination
- Assessments include:
  - Air and water pollution impacts
  - Waste disposal
  - Minimizing net reduction of forested areas
- Pollinator-friendly design integrated into ground-mounted solar arrays is designed to improve ecological services

# Relevant Regulations – Critical Area Regulations

## Critical Area Boundary Map





# Relevant Regulations – Community Solar Specific

	Pilot Program	HB 908
Capacity Limit	418 MW	Unlimited
LMI Set-Aside	125 MW	40% of project kWh output*
Contiguous Development	Options to expand projects to adjacent properties in difficult to build areas	Clarifies limitations and includes farmland as an option for contiguous development for scaled agrivoltaics