

NH Sustainable Energy Association
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Concord, NH 03301

September 9, 2014

Michael Sheehan, Esq.
NH Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

NHPUC SEP09'14 PM 3:25

Re: PUC Docket DRM 13-311, Puc 902 and 909 Rules

Dear Attorney Sheehan:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the proposed rules, Puc 902 and 909, under Docket DE 13-311 for Group Net Metering and in response to the public hearing held on August 27th, 2014. NHSEA believes that the rules as written are useable and reflect the intent of the statute, which is to enable people, towns, and businesses to utilize renewable, local resources to generate electricity and control their energy costs.

Specifically, the addition of the phrase "electricity consumed in conjunction with or to operate the facility qualifies as "the customer's own electricity requirements," in Puc 902.03 fully reflects the intent of SB 98 and is an important clarification to that end: when the legislature, after public hearings and multiple work sessions, decided to strike "in the first instance" from the original customer-generator definition, they did so with full information and understanding of the scenarios arising therein. By striking this piece of the definition, and knowing the intent of SB 98, it is clear that electricity used to operate the facility that will serve the entire group is inclusive to the new definition. Under group net metering, multiple customers' electricity requirements are being met and the host site is the necessary point of generation for all group members: the host site's load may only consist of the load used in conjunction with or to operate the renewable energy or CHP facility. This clarification to 902.03 is critical to deploying the law as intended. Additionally, this precise clarification was requested by both developers and utilities in prior comments and in the course of using the interim rules.

In Puc 902.09, the definition of facility should not necessarily imply that multiple systems built on a single property are always considered one facility, where multiple facilities on a single property serving multiple groups may be the sensible land use, community-based or other appropriate solution to meeting the intent and purpose of net metering and group net metering. Additionally, using the phrase, "in the normal course of business," is both rational yet flexible, given the standard meter installation procedures that currently exist for utilities, to guide this decision process, under the intent of the law.

Sincerely,
Kate Epsen
Executive Director, NHSEA