STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE Intra-Department Communication

DATE: February 9, 2018
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Deandra Perruccio, Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: DE 15-302, Residential Renewable Electric Generation Incentive Program

Recommendations for Program Lottery, Waitlist, and Temporary Closure

TO: Martin P. Honigberg, Chairman

Kathryn M. Bailey, Commissioner Michael S. Giaimo, Commissioner Debra A. Howland, Executive Director

CC: Karen Cramton, Director, Sustainable Energy Division

Azanna Wishart, Energy Analyst David K. Wiesner, Staff Attorney

Recommendation Summary

In anticipation of high demand for and potential oversubscription of the reopened Residential Renewable Electric Generation Incentive Program (Program), Commission Order No. 26,075 provided for a public lottery to allocate initial queue positions for applications delivered or postmarked on or before February 1, 2018. Staff recommends scheduling the public lottery for the Program at 11a.m on February 20, 2018. Applications received to date have requested rebate amounts exceeding the currently-available Program funds. Staff therefore recommends establishing a waitlist comprised of the unfunded applications in the queue established through the public lottery. Finally, given funding constraints and timing of the annual budget cycle, Staff recommends temporarily closing the Program to new applications hand-delivered or postmarked after February 12, 2018.

Public Lottery

As of February 8, 2018, 627 applications delivered or postmarked on or before February 1, 2018, have been received for the reopened Program with a total requested funding amount of \$611,909. As stated in Staff's recommendation memorandum dated October 5, 2017 (DE 15-302), the approximate available funding for the Program is \$525,000. Assuming approval of all applications received to date, the Program's allocated funding for fiscal year 2018 will be fully reserved, and the Program will have waitlisted applications requesting rebates totaling approximately \$87,000.

A public lottery process was approved by the Commission through <u>Order 26.075</u> (November 20, 2017) to determine initial queue positions for applications received or postmarked on or before February 1, 2018. Staff recommends holding the public lottery on February 20, 2018 at 11a.m. The lottery will be automated using a random value generation tool to assign numeric values to applications entered into the lottery database, and then the applications will be sorted according

to those numeric values. Staff will conduct both the randomization and sorting processes during the public lottery.

No later than Friday, February 23, 2018, applicants and installers will be individually notified by e-mail of the applicant's queue position, and whether or not the application is on the waitlist.

Program Waitlist

Because the applications received requested rebates in excess of the total Program funding available for the current fiscal year, Staff recommends creating a waitlist to establish priority for the processing of applications. The waitlist will include:

- Applications for rebates in excess of current Program funding limits from the rebate reservation queue established through the public lottery conducted on February 20, 2018; and
- 2. Applications received at the Commission which were postmarked after the February 1, 2018 deadline and before the Program closure date referenced below; those applications will be added to the waitlist on a first-come, first-served basis.

Program Temporary Closure

Because additional funding will not be allocated to the Program until after electricity providers' alternative compliance payments are deposited into the Renewable Energy Fund on or about July 1, 2018, Staff recommends that the Commission close the Program to new applications delivered or postmarked after February 12, 2018, and that the Program remain closed until additional funding is made available during fiscal year 2019. Staff will continue to monitor, process, and make available funding from expired applications to cover rebates requested in waitlisted applications while the Program is closed.

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