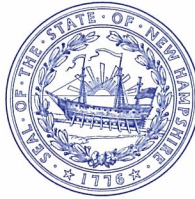


THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHAIRMAN
Thomas B. Getz

COMMISSIONERS
Graham J. Morrison
Clifton C. Below

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND SECRETARY
Debra A. Howland



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX (603) 271-3878

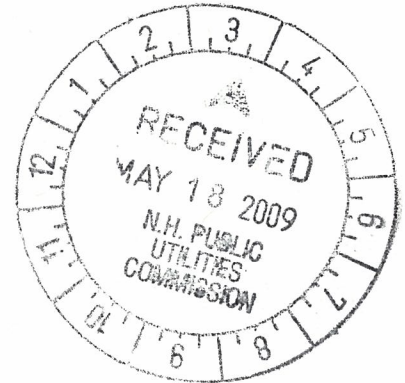
TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

May 18, 2009

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Docket No. DE 09-054
Residential Renewable Rebate Program
Report of Technical Session



Dear Ms. Howland:

On May 15, 2009, the Staff held a technical session in the above-captioned docket. Attendees included representatives from the Office of Energy and Planning, the New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association, Public Service Company of New Hampshire, Granite State Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, the Office of Consumer Advocate and several professional installers of residential solar and wind facilities.

Many of the participants suggested that the rebate application form be simplified by changing the format to allow the applicant to check boxes or complete fields to provide information necessary to the processing the applications. In addition, participants recommended that the application identify what document would satisfy a particular inquiry. For example, when asking that the applicant provide proof of approved interconnection, the application should indicate that a copy of the interconnection agreement would satisfy the request.

The comments of experienced installers convinced Staff that we need to develop an appendix to the application to spell out certain technical requirements, such as siting specifications, as well as information about the rebate program and a clear statement regarding the Commission's right to audit and evaluate the installation. Staff is in the process of preparing that document. However, we recognize that no particular requirements existed for facilities installed between July 2008 and the present. Consequently, Staff will prepare one rebate application form for these pre-existing installations, and a separate form for proposed installations. In addition, based on

comments we received at the technical session, Staff will recommend a two step process for new installations. The first step will be an application for proposed projects to reserve an applicant's place in the queue, and the second step will be an application upon completion of the project to allow for payment of the incentive. This two step process is common in jurisdictions administering renewable incentive payment programs.

While we are confident that we are prepared to administer the incentive program for future solar installations, we have concluded that we need to do additional work regarding wind powered facilities. Some jurisdictions require a one-year wind study before approving wind power installations for incentive payments. In addition, there are siting issues unique to wind turbines. Therefore, Staff will not be submitting technical specifications for wind power facilities for the May 26 hearing in this docket. We intend to thoroughly evaluate the issues before we make any recommendations to the Commission. This evaluation will not affect the processing of applications for wind installations occurring between July 2008 and the present.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Suzanne G. Amidon
Staff Attorney

Service List