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January 12, 2016

Karen Cramton State of New Hampshire **Public Utilities Commission** 21 Fruit Street, S, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301

CC: NH Clean Tech Council, Orr & Reno

Dear Karen:

Over the past 2 year I have been diligently working with over 20 clients to develop 28 projects that in aggregate total over 22MWs of Solar PV in New Hampshire. As you are well aware Solar PV projects are critical to achieve the State of New Hampshire's 2025 RPS standards of 24.8%. Today, I became deeply concerned by information I received related to the DE 15-271 Queue Management milestones spelled out in the proposed rules.

For starters, there is no option for an extension and there could be a situation whereby a project needs to be built within the 365 days (per milestone #5 under "Type C" projects and if that fell in the winter time or a time of year when weather can affect construction, the rules read that your project would automatically be kicked out of the net metering queue if this milestone 5 was not met. No bank will fund a project if there is no option to extend the construction if there are circumstances out of the developer's control. So we would ask for language offering an extension option if a weather is the reason for the delay in addition to the existing language about utility delays.

Milestone #5. Within 365 days, the project shall be complete, fully interconnected and operational, which includes, but is not limited to, the submission of any testing and commissioning documents requested by the Company, the installation of a utility net meter, and the generation of power on a regular, non-test basis. Projects that are fully constructed and capable of test power operation, but are waiting for final utility interconnection construction as a result of factors beyond their control, shall have this Milestone #5 deadline extended for a reasonable period of time in order to permit such final utility interconnection construction.

In addition, the language in the first paragraph of the Type C Projects section related to the milestones creates an issue because it states the "first to occur" and with most utilities, an estimate for utility upgrades could be provided well before the impact study is completed and most banks will not approve a project until an interconnection service agreement (ISA) is signed as the legal document required for proof of the interconnection. We suggest it states "...shall be calculated from either or the following (i)...., (ii).....". This will ensure that a project does not fall out of the queue because a quote could easily be provide to a developer early on, but the ISA typically is not generated and signed by the Utility until the construction is about to start, which puts a project at risk and therefore a bank will not fund it.









## Type C Projects.

The milestone deadlines set forth below shall be calculated from the first to occur of (i) the date the Company provides the Applicant with an Interconnection Service Agreement which describes the required utility upgrades and costs, or (ii) the date the Company provides the Applicant with the results of its System Impact Study or, if the Company does not provide a formal System Impact Study report, the date on which the Company provides an estimate of utility upgrade costs.

I hope these real life scenarios make sense to the PUC and they can be included in the final rules to ensure a fair process that allows projects to be funded by a bank without risk of falling out of queue due to issues out of a developer's control.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kellar Founder NhSolarGarden.com, LLC