

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intra-Department Communication

DATE: July 14, 2017

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Karen Cramton, Director, Sustainable Energy Division *K-C*

SUBJECT: DE 10-024, DE 10-212, DE 15-302 - Calendar Year 2016 Alternative Compliance Payments and Renewable Energy Fund Program Status

TO: Chairman Martin Honigberg
Commissioner Kate Bailey
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director

CC: Anne Ross, General Counsel

The Renewable Energy Fund (REF) is a dedicated, non-lapsing fund whose purpose is to support electrical and thermal renewable energy initiatives. The REF is solely funded through alternative compliance payments (ACP) received from electric providers pursuant to the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). In accordance with the Commission administration rules, Chapter Puc 2500 which implements New Hampshire's RPS Program, electricity providers file annual compliance payments and reports by July 1st of each year.

For calendar year 2016, the REF received unaudited ACP revenues in the amount of approximately \$3.6 million. The revenue amount is preliminary as Staff is in the process of reconciling and validating ACP and compliance reports. This process is generally complete in the September timeframe.

The calendar year 2016 ACP revenue funds the REF for fiscal year 2018 which began on July 1, 2017 and ends on June 30, 2018. The REF supports electric and thermal renewable energy projects through grant and rebate programs, and covers the administrative expenses to administer the RPS statute and its programs. In addition, the passage of Senate Bill 129 places additional funding requirements for a low moderate income solar program. The REF budget will be developed in accordance with all statutory allocations requirements.

The REF rebate and grant programs are experiencing record demand. Most program budget allocations for Fiscal Year 2017 were fully subscribed prior to the end of the fiscal year. The waitlist for the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Solar Rebate program is approximately \$1 million. Based on the unaudited ACP revenue and the current level of waitlisted projects, Staff recommends the Commission close the C&I Solar Rebate program to new applications effective July 14, 2017 until at least September 1st and a final Fiscal Year 2018 budget is approved by the Commission. Staff further recommends the Commission direct Staff to return to applicants all applications received after July 13th and to process the existing C&I Solar Rebate Step 1 waitlisted applications (i.e., those received prior to July 14, 2017) on a first-come, first served basis per current program terms and conditions.

On June 30, 2017, the Commission issued a secretarial letter stating that, beginning July 1, 2017, Residential Solar and Wind Rebate Step 1 applications would not be processed or placed on a waitlist due to an existing waitlist that exceeds \$500,000. Based on the unaudited ACP revenue, Staff recommends the Commission direct Staff to process existing waitlisted applications (i.e., those received prior to July 1, 2017) for the Residential Solar and Wind Rebate program on a first-come, first served basis per current program terms and conditions. Additionally, to ensure fairness to future program applicants, Staff recommends the Commission direct Staff to return to applicants all applications received after June 30th. Finally, Staff recommends the Commission close the Residential Solar and Wind Rebate program to new applications until at least September 1st and a final Fiscal Year 2018 budget is approved by the Commission.

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Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:

DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
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b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.

c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.

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