

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 13-298

RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND

**Opportunity to Comment on Renewable Energy Incentive Program for
Commercial and Industrial Bulk Fuel-Fed Wood Pellet Central Heating Systems**

ORDER OF NOTICE

Pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, VIII, the Commission may establish “additional incentive or rebate programs and competitive grant opportunities for renewable thermal and electric energy projects sited in New Hampshire” to be supported by the Renewable Energy Fund (REF).

Pursuant to its statutory authority, the Commission has asked Staff to develop a Commercial and Industrial (C&I) bulk fuel-fed wood pellet central heating system rebate program. The Commission has budgeted \$629,140 of REF funds in state fiscal year 2014 to support such projects.

Accordingly, the Commission seeks comment on the development of this program from stakeholders including but not limited to commercial and industrial customers such as municipalities, owners of multi-family residential buildings, businesses, non-profits, colleges and universities, wood pellet manufacturers and delivery companies, boiler installers, and state and regional experts on the wood pellet market. In particular, the Commission seeks comment on the following issues: (1) how to optimize the C&I bulk fuel-fed wood pellet central heating system rebate program’s benefit to the state, (2) whether there should be a minimum and maximum BTU size requirement for C&I systems that would be eligible, (3) whether eligibility of a system should be based upon BTU installed capacity or anticipated performance, (4) whether applicants should be required to have completed energy efficiency audits or upgrades before applying for

the rebate, (5) whether eligibility should be tiered to encourage a wide variety of applicants, (6) whether there is an optimal rebate amount to incent participation, (7) whether it should be permissible to obtain a rebate in addition to REC eligibility or other incentives for a particular facility, (8) how to maximize the longevity of the systems installed, including whether only systems with warranties of a particular duration should be eligible, (9) whether and what type of thermal storage should be required in relation to the size of eligible systems, and (10) whether heat load calculations should be required as part of the application.

To assist in the development of a C&I bulk –fuel-fed wood pellet central heating system rebate incentive program, a technical session will be held on October 30, 2013 starting at 1:30 p.m. to allow interested parties to discuss issues including the appropriate level of rebate incentives, content of an application, qualification requirements for rebates, and other relevant issues that may be identified. Participants are advised that one or more Commissioners may attend this technical session. Written comments from participants will be accepted on or before November 8, 2013. Following the technical session and receipt of written comments, Staff will make a recommendation by November 19, 2013, to the Commission regarding a C&I bulk fuel-fed wood pellet central heating system rebate program and future steps in the development of such a program.

The Commission will hold a hearing on November 22, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. to receive public comment on Staff's recommendations. Following the hearing, participants will have until December 3, 2013 to provide additional comments.

This notice raises, inter alia, issues related to the development of a C&I bulk fuel-fed wood pellet central heating system rebate program.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Technical Session be held at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 30, 2013 at 1:30 p.m., at which Staff will meet with interested members of the public to receive recommendations and comments regarding a C&I bulk fuel-fed wood pellet central heating system rebate program; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Staff shall file a recommended incentive and application process, including any technical requirements, for a C&I bulk fuel-fed wood pellet central heating system rebate program by November 19, 2013; and it is

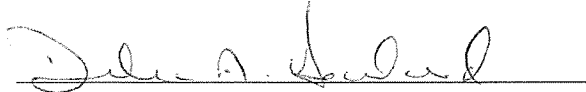
FURTHER ORDERED, that a public comment hearing on Staff's recommendation on a C&I bulk fuel-fed wood pellet central heating system rebate program be held on November 22, 2013 at 1:30; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that final written comments be filed by December 3, 2013; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that comments and suggestions may also be filed by email at executive.director@puc.nh.gov; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Executive Director shall notify all persons desiring to file comments, participate in the technical session or be heard at hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 17, 2013, in a newspaper with general circulation in the state with publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before October 28, 2013.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eleventh day of
October, 2013.


Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

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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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- 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
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- 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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