

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DE 15-302**

**RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLE ELECTRIC GENERATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

**Order *Nisi* Modifying Application Process**

**ORDER NO. 26,349**

**April 15, 2020**

This order modifies the application process for the residential renewable electric generation facility incentive program. This order permits the electronic submission of applications during the current state of emergency related to the coronavirus pandemic. The order also permanently modifies the application process to remove the need for applicants to provide their social security numbers to the Commission. This order is issued on a *nisi* basis to ensure that interested persons receive notice of the decision and have the opportunity to submit comments or request a hearing before the order becomes effective.

In 2009, the Commission approved initiation of the residential renewable electric generation facility incentive program (Residential Program), under RSA 362-F:10, V; establishing a two-step application process and approving the forms required to be submitted in each step of the process. *See* Order No. 25,020 (October 2, 2009). Since that time, the Commission has modified the Residential Program a number of times. Most recently, program eligibility terms and conditions were modified and the incentive level for the Residential Program was decreased to \$0.20 per watt, up to a maximum of \$1,000 or 30 percent of the total system cost, whichever is less. *See* Order No. 26,075 (November 20, 2017).

We have determined that modifications should be made to the Residential Program application process so that applicants have the opportunity to receive incentive payments in a more timely and efficient manner. First, we will permit Residential Program Step 1 initial and

Step 2 final applications to be submitted electronically, on a temporary basis during the current state of emergency related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Electronic submissions will be considered filed as of the time that the electronic version is received by the Commission. Persons electing to submit their applications electronically should also mail a paper copy of their application to the Commission's offices. This modification to the application process is consistent with the Commission's COVID-19 related secretarial letter issued on March 17, 2020, which permitted electronic filings in Commission proceedings during the state of emergency. It is also consistent with the temporary modification we recently approved to permit electronic submission of applications in the commercial and industrial solar program. *See Renewable Energy Incentive Program for C&I Solar Projects*, Order No. 26,346 (April 7, 2020).

Step 1 and Step 2 applications may continue to be filed solely on paper, if the applicant prefers; however, applications submitted only on paper may take longer to be processed.

Second, we will modify the Residential Program application process so that Step 2 applicants are not required to provide their social security numbers to the Commission on a separate page of the application. Instead, applicants should register as vendors with the State of New Hampshire and provide the necessary information through the state vendor registration process administered by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS).<sup>1</sup> Residential Program applicants are currently registered as vendors through the DAS website by Commission Staff (Staff), using the social security numbers and other personal information provided by the applicants. Modification of the Step 2 application process to require applicants to perform that action themselves will streamline the process and enable secure electronic submission by eliminating the need for the Commission to receive and maintain applicants' social security

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<sup>1</sup> The state's vendor registration is available through the Department of Administrative Services' website at: [https://das.nh.gov/purchasing/vendorregistration/\(S\(dsvtvv55ast1xtfm23it1155\)\)/welcome.aspx](https://das.nh.gov/purchasing/vendorregistration/(S(dsvtvv55ast1xtfm23it1155))/welcome.aspx).

numbers. That modification is permanent and will not terminate when the current state of emergency ends.

We direct Staff to implement the Step 1 and Step 2 application submission and processing procedures consistent with this order. To facilitate administration, we also authorize Staff to make clerical and ministerial administrative modifications to Residential Program application forms and processes without further Commission approval, provided that such modifications are consistent with this order. We also expressly authorize the Commission's Executive Director to terminate the temporary modification permitting electronic application submissions following the end of the state of emergency.

The Commission has the authority, "to alter, amend, suspend, annul, set aside, or otherwise modify any order made by it." *See* RSA 365:28. We modify prior Orders establishing and altering the Residential Program to implement the application process changes addressed above by issuing this order on a *nisi* basis to ensure that all interested persons receive notice of the decision and have the opportunity to submit comments or request a hearing before the order becomes effective.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED *NISI***, that the residential renewable energy generation facility incentive program shall be modified as described in the body of this order; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Staff is authorized to make clerical and ministerial administrative modifications to program application forms and processes without further Commission approval, provided that such modifications are consistent with this order; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Commission's Executive Director is authorized to terminate the temporary modification permitting electronic application submission following the end of the current state of emergency related to the novel coronavirus; and it is

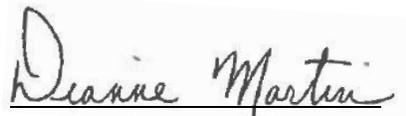
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Executive Director shall publish this order *nisi* on the Commission's website no later than one day after the date of issue, and shall cause a copy of this order *nisi* to be sent through electronic mail to the service list for this docket; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that all persons interested in responding to this order *nisi* be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing that states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than April 22, 2020, for the Commission's consideration; and it is

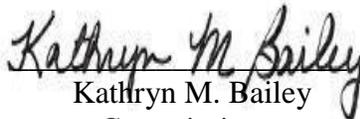
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that all persons interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than April 27, 2020; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that this order *nisi* shall be effective on April 29, 2020, unless the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

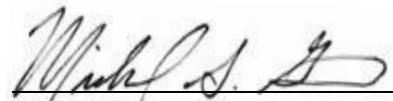
By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fifteenth day of April, 2020.



Dianne Martin  
Chairwoman

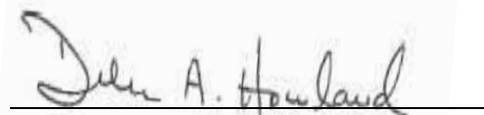


Kathryn M. Bailey  
Commissioner



Michael S. Giaimo  
Commissioner

Attested by:



Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

# Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 15-302

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