

CHAIRWOMAN
Dianne Martin

COMMISSIONERS
Kathryn M. Bailey
Daniel C. Goldner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Debra A. Howland



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

Tel. (603) 271-2431

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

May 28, 2021

Re: Docket Nos. DE 10-024, DE 13-298, and DE 16-614
Reallocation of FY21 REF Program Budgets and Establishment of REF Rebate Program
Waitlists

To the Parties:

The Commission approved the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) program allocations for fiscal year 2021 (FY21) by secretarial letter dated December 4, 2020. Further, it directed Commission Staff (Staff) to continue to accept new applications for all rebate programs, with the exception of the Residential Solar Thermal Rebate program, until the individual program funding allocations were fully utilized. On May 5, 2021, Staff filed a memorandum recommending that the Commission approve amendments to certain REF program budgets, as well as authorize the suspension and creation of waitlists for fully reserved REF rebate programs.

Staff noted in the memorandum that Staff monitors REF programs and their budgets throughout the fiscal year. Staff stated that, as of April 30, 2021, the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Bulk Fed Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebate program (C&I Wood Pellet program) had experienced only moderate demand. However, Staff reported that, as of this date, the Residential Bulk Fed Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebate program (Residential Wood Pellet program) budget was almost fully reserved and, based on Commissioner approval of nonresidential grants, additional funding would be required for the Nonresidential Competitive Grant program.

Staff recommended reallocating \$132,541 from the C&I Wood Pellet program budget to the budgets for the Residential Wood Pellet program and the Nonresidential Competitive Grant program, as shown below in Table 2 of Staff's memorandum, based on historical and anticipated demand for those last two programs.

Table 2. Recommended FY21 REF Program Budget Reallocations

Program	FY21 Budget	Adjustment	Adjusted FY21 Budget
Residential Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$306,924	\$69,541	\$ 376,465
Nonresidential Competitive Grant Program	\$1,100,000	\$63,000	\$1,163,000
C&I Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$400,000	(\$132,541)	\$ 267,459

Staff also recommended transferring \$3,000 from unused consultant funds to the Residential Wood Pellet program to adjust the program's FY21 budget, as shown below in Table 3 of Staff's memorandum.

Table 3. Recommended FY21 REF SOA to Program Budget Allocations

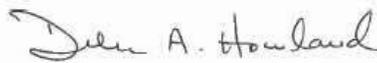
Program	FY21 Budget as Adjusted in Table 2	Adjustment	Adjusted FY21 Budget
Residential Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$376,465	\$3,000	\$ 379,465

According to Staff, the recommended reallocation of funds shown in Tables 2 and 3 would have a minimal impact on the reasonable balancing of the overall amounts expended, allocated, or obligated from the REF between residential and nonresidential sectors over the 2-year period, as required by RSA 362-F:10, X, and would meet all other statutory allocation requirements.

In addition to the foregoing program budget amendments, Staff recommended that the Commission: (1) suspend new rebate program reservations for rebate programs that are, or become, fully reserved; and (2) authorize Staff to create waitlists for individual programs, up to a \$20,000 limit, to establish the priority for processing applications, as it is anticipated that the REF will receive additional funding around July 1, 2021, the beginning of the new fiscal year. Staff stated that expired step 1 program applications would continue to be monitored, so that reserved funds can be released if applicants do not submit timely step 2 applications.

The Commission has reviewed Staff's memorandum, and it finds that Staff's recommendations are a just and reasonable way of balancing the budgets of various individual programs funded by the REF during FY21, based on the historical and anticipated demand for those programs. Accordingly, it approves the recommended program budget reallocations shown in Tables 2 and 3. The Commission also authorizes Staff to suspend new rebate program reservations for rebate programs that become fully reserved and to create waitlists for individual programs, up to a \$20,000 limit, in order to establish the priority for processing applications when additional funding is available. Until then, Staff shall continue to monitor rebate program applications and release reserved funds, when appropriate.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Service List (Electronically)
Docket File

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 10-024

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Email Addresses

ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov
shakerwoods@metrocast.net
lghbailey@gmail.com
clifton.below@gmail.com
paul.bemis@coolsimssoftware.com
jamiebemis@gmail.com
billings@norwicksolar.com
jack@seacoastenergy.com
boudreau@norwicksolar.com
brianna@cleanenergynh.org
tomburack@comcast.net
tony.buschur@trane.com
cncasagrande@hughes.net
rcecc@aol.com
karen.cramton@puc.nh.gov
pemihollowg@gmail.com
connor.d@solarwolfenergy.com
shawn.donovan@harmonyenergyworks.com
ddriscoll@concordnh.gov
nadesha@msn.com
geo@usasolarstore.com
ted.newdayenergy@gmail.com
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov
kim@fraseelectric.com
mifriedman@greenstreetsolarpower.com
Elijah@garrisonpointconsulting.com
tgauntt@granitstatesolar.com
zach@603solar.com
info@begreensolar.com
thaviland@apexsolarpower.com
ruthmheath@comcast.net
wbh@essexhydro.com
dhenry@hotzero.biz
bhotz@forestsociety.org
nick.isaak@gmail.com
rex@greenenergyoptions.com
jenna@samesunvt.com
staiteenergy@gmail.com

sandra@plymouthenergy.org
Eric@granitestatesolar.com
madeleine.klein@engie.com
sarah.knowlton@libertyutilities.com
markakovacs@comcast.net
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov
kroll@gcglaw.com
mlatham@paneltheplanet.com
lemayg@nhec.com
Paul@greenmtnsolar.com
matt@townlineequipment.com
bob@townlineequipment.com
madeleine@cleanenergynh.org
dennis@thearchitects.net
jason.morse@baesystems.com
fortunat@revisionenergy.com
mulin@revisionenergy.com
nickelec2002@yahoo.com
niebling@inrslc.com
elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov
ran@essexhydro.com
policies@solbid.com
matt.okeefe@unh.edu
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov
joliver@vermontlaw.edu
fred.paine@us.ngrid.com
palma@unitil.com
deandra.perruccio@puc.nh.gov
kim.quirk@gmail.com
gilrichardson@wildblue.net
sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov
mrobinson@new-day-energy.com
jroche@biaofnh.com
jenna@samesunvt.com
paul@nhcom.solar
scott@tarmusa.com
sjescompliance@sjindustries.com
policies@solbid.com
jsohn@safarienergy.com
envsolar@comcast.net
cszanton@szantoncompany.com
mtessier@goffstownnh.gov
ketraum@gmail.com
tanya.wayland@puc.nh.gov

mweissflog@kwmanagement.com
david.wiesner@puc.nh.gov
azanna.wishart@puc.nh.gov
dwoodward@berkshiremfp.com
worsowicz@gcglaw.com

Without Email Addresses

John Anton
Northern New England Housing Investment Fund
130 North Main St
Concord NH 03301

Marc Spinale
3 Clark Farm Rd
Hancock NH 03449

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 13-298

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Email Addresses

ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov
madams@northernforest.org
Christopher.aslin@doj.nh.gov
lghbailey@gmail.com
sbarnes@sjindustries.com
gbass@noblesolutions.com
brianna@cleanenergynh.org
achesley@devinemillimet.com
brian@umginc.com
jeffrey.cyr@dos.nh.gov
kevindeannow@gmail.com
pemihollowg@gmail.com
allen.desbiens@eversource.com
ddriscoll@concordnh.gov
robert.c.flanders@gmail.com
ted.newdayenergy@gmail.com
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov
mark@frolingenergy.com
sgates@tarmusa.com
agauntt@granitestatesolar.com
tgauntt@granitestatesolar.com
dhenry@hotzero.biz
kjoseph@napower.com
Eric@granitestatesolar.com
amy.klaviter@constellation.com
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov
skueffner@xoomenergy.com
mleclerc@sparkenergy.com
madeleine@cleanenergynh.org
jmiranda@rc.com
jason.morse@baesystems.com
rmunnelly@davismalm.com
scott@tarmusa.com
elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
sormsbee@colonialpowergroup.com
dpatch@orr-reno.com

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deandra.perruccio@puc.nh.gov
sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov
mark.saltsman@libertyutilities.com
info@napower.com
aschmid@solect.com
firstchoiceenergy@comcast.net
david.wiesner@puc.nh.gov
azanna.wishart@puc.nh.gov

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Email Addresses

ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov
richard.chagnon@puc.nh.gov
karen.cramton@puc.nh.gov
allen.desbiens@eversource.com
Stephen.Eckberg@puc.nh.gov
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov
adele.leighton@puc.nh.gov
madeleine@cleanenergynh.org
elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
david.wiesner@puc.nh.gov
azanna.wishart@puc.nh.gov