

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: R.I. OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES' REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DISTRIBUTED GENERATION CLASSES AND CEILING PRICES; RI OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES' PROPOSED STANDARD CONTRACT - DOCKET NO. 4288

NOTICE TO SOLICIT COMMENTS

Pursuant to the provisions of Rhode Island General Laws §§ 39-1 and 39-3 et seq, as amended, on **October 23, 2012 at 9:30 A.M.** in Hearing Room A of the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission"), 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI, the Commission will conduct a hearing to accept public comments **regarding whether the Commission should reconsider its October 4, 2012 decision** to approve the Rhode Island Energy Resources' ("OER") Motion for Relief from Order No. 20676.

In Order No. 20676, the Commission approved a filing by OER which stated in Ordering Paragraph 6 that "The Distributed Generation Classes and Targets proposed by OER on September 27, 2011 are approved, as filed and set forth in Appendix A, for 2011 and 2012. The approved Classes and Targets are set forth in Appendix A shall remain in effect until new classes and targets are proposed by OER and approved by the Commission." The Target for 2012 was set at 15MW. In 2012, to date, National Grid has met 10 MW of the target through two solicitations. The OER requested that the Commission amend the Order so as to permit OER to reallocate the last 5 MW to the 2013 program and suspend the third solicitation scheduled in 2012. As grounds therefore, OER stated that the reallocation would allow for a reduction in the ceiling prices to be paid to distributed generation projects through this program, reducing adverse impacts to ratepayers. The result would be a delay of the solicitation by approximately three months.

Following the filing of OER's Motion, the Commission, through Notice to the official service list in this docket, notified the parties that the ten day objection period would run on October 1, 2012. On September 28, 2012, National Grid filed a letter supporting OER's Motion on the basis that the law governing the distributed generation program provides OER the flexibility to modify the program, subject to Commission review in the event ceiling prices are too high. National Grid suggested that based on its experience in the solicitations, OER was correct that ceiling prices for 2012 had been set higher than necessary to meet the statutory intent. No objections were received.

On this basis, the Commission voted unanimously at an Open Meeting on October 4, 2012 to approve OER's Motion. At the Open Meeting potential program participants appeared wishing to provide public comment, which intent was made known following the Commission's decision. Therefore, in the interest of a fully transparent process, the Commission will conduct this hearing. The Commission will also accept written public comments. Interested parties and members of the public wishing to offer comments regarding whether the Commission should reconsider its October 4, 2012 decision may do so in writing to Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk, Public Utilities Commission, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888 until 4:00 P.M. on October 22, 2012.

The proposal is on file for examination at the Commission's office. The filing can also be accessed at www.ripuc.org under Commission Docket Menu, Docket No. 4288. Reference is made to Chapters 39-1, 39-3 and 42-35 of the RI General Laws.

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk

October 12, 2012