



To: RI Public Utilities Commission
From: People's Power & Light, Karina Lutz, Consultant
Re: Dockets 4277 and 4288 public comments
Date: Jan. 8, 2013

Honorable Commissioners:

People's Power & Light would like to take this opportunity to comment in support of the Office of Energy Resources' (OER's) proposed classes and prices for the latest round of the Distributed Generation Standard Contracts program. First, we appreciate the OER's deep stakeholder engagement, use of expert consultants, and thoughtful work to develop the new classes and prices.

We are very excited to see the proposed price decrease for photovoltaic electricity. This kind of price decrease is one intended consequence of the structure of the program, and it's good to see it working. We're also glad to see a strong category for community-scale on-shore wind, possibly the most affordable and cleanest green power. If this class is filled with viable projects it will provide a good hedge against natural gas-fired electricity, which Rhode Island is woefully dependent upon. The inclusion of another affordable and ready source, anaerobic digestion, is another improvement in the program, and we agree that the hydropower price signal will be helpful for developers to move forward with permitting appropriate projects.

Altogether, we think this proposal and the response from developers to the program so far shows that the program is working as intended, to create a fair and working market for renewable energy. We hope to see the pilot expanded by the legislature before the 2014 sunset to a significant level. Such an expansion should decrease the pressure for legislative selection of the Long Term Contracts projects as has happened in the past, at much higher prices.

We believe the proposed prices for this round affirm that the program is working to get the best deal for ratepayers on renewable energy, with short and long-term benefits to all rate.

Sincerely,

Karina Lutz
for People's Power & Light