



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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October 1, 2015

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL:

Luly E. Massaro
Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

RE: Renewable Energy Growth Program – Solar Quality Assurance Report
(Docket No. 4536-B)

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of the Rhode Island Distributed Generation Standard Contract Board ("Board") is an original and ten (10) copies of the Commission's First Set of Data Requests related to the development of the Renewable Energy Growth Program – Solar Quality Assurance Report (Docket No. 4536-B).

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Majcher, Esq.

DWM/njr

Enclosure

c. Docket 4536- B Service List

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: RHODE ISLAND DG BOARD'S
BUDGETARY REQUEST FOR SOLAR
QUALITY ASSURANCE STUDY

DOCKET NO. 4536-B

COMMISSION'S FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS

DIRECTED TO THE BOARD

(September 24, 2015)

Please reply by October 2, 2015

COMM 1. What analysis, if any, was performed to determine that a contract budget not to exceed \$125,000 is appropriate? Please provide copies of any analysis performed.

RESPONSE: The Board based this budget request amount on similar studies that were conducted for the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) installations in 2014 and 2015. The costs of those studies were approximately \$100,000 each. The Board is requesting a budget amount, which shall not exceed \$125,000, but the amount actually procured could be less. The Office of Energy Resources (OER) would only receive reimbursement from National Grid for actual costs incurred.

As further justification, the REF conducted a similar analysis on quality assurance for its funded projects. In FY2015, REF spent about \$100,000 on quality assurance studies for approximately 100 solar system sizes.

COMM 2. The RFP (page 7) states the contract will be for a period of 2 years. What dates (month, day, year) will this 2-year contract period cover? If it covers 2 successive REG program years, will the consultant's costs be billed to National Grid, and recovered from ratepayers, each program year, or will the total costs be billed to National Grid, and recovered from ratepayers, once at the end of the 2-year contract period?

RESPONSE: The 2 year period would officially begin once the selected consultant signs the contract to begin the scope of work for the Board. The Board suspects that the process will begin in November, if reconciliation funding is approved by the Commission and thus the contract would be from November 2015 to November 2017.

The consultant's costs would be billed under the same process used by the Board for the annual ceiling price services. OER would submit invoice payment requests to National Grid for on either or monthly or quarterly basis over the 2 year contract.

COMM 3. How and when will the consultant be paid, i.e. monthly or upon completion of services?

RESPONSE: The consultant will either be paid on a monthly or quarterly basis. It will be the same process that is used for the annual ceiling price services.

COMM 4. Pursuant to the RFP (page 12), please confirm that a contract will be awarded in December of 2015. If correct, is there any particular reason the Board is seeking funding approval in October?

RESPONSE: The Board's plan was to award a contract in December. However, if the Commission were to approve the reconciliation funding request in October, then the study would begin in October or November.

COMM 5. Please confirm that the Board will only bill National Grid for costs actually paid to the consultant, which may not necessarily total \$125,000.

RESPONSE: Confirmed. The Board will only bill National Grid for the cost actually paid to the the consultant which may be less than \$125,000.