

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

MEMORANDUM

TO: LULY MASSARO, CLERK

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2017

FROM: STEPHEN SCIALABBA
DPUC

SUBJECT: DOCKET 4604, OER REQUEST FOR FUNDING

On July 25, 2017, the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) submitted to the PUC a Request for Funding to Hire a Consultant for the 2018 Renewable Energy Growth (REG) year. This Request for Authorization was made pursuant to RIGL 39-26.6-4(b). The funding request is for \$145,000, and its purpose is to perform a study to evaluate the quality of renewable energy installations participating in the RE Growth Program. Similar requests for funding for studies have been filed by the OER and approved by the PUC in the past.

On September 6, 2017, the OER submitted responses to the PUC data request regarding the filing. The Division has reviewed the OER submission, the OER responses, as well as previous docket information in prior year OER Requests for Funding made pursuant to the RE Growth statute.

Based on our review of the OER Request and the data responses, we believe the OER Request to Fund a Quality Assurance Review of the renewable resources supported by rate payer dollars, along with a customer survey, to be a worthwhile project, and a prudent expense given the size of the RE Growth program¹.

¹ Total estimated RE Growth Program expense of \$626 million per National Grid Response to Record Request, 2/9/16 in Docket 4589-A. This estimate was performed prior to the 2017 legislation that extended the program well beyond the original 160MW target.