



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Department of Administration
 DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES
 One Capitol Hill, 4th Floor
 Providence, RI 02908-5890

Tel: (401) 222-8880
 Fax: (401) 222-8244

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 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

June 20, 2016

Via U.S. Mail & Email

Amy D'Alessandro, Esq.
 Public Utilities Commission
 89 Jefferson Blvd.
 Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

RE: 2015-16 Renewable Energy Growth Program – Economic Jobs Study Report

Dear Ms. D'Alessandro:

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-4(b), we write to request approval from the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) to perform an economic and jobs impact study of the 2015 and 2016 Renewable Energy Growth (“REG”) program years. In addition, we seek approval from the PUC to receive One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00) representing the anticipated costs to perform the study.

As way of background, R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-4(b) provides that “the office [OER], in consultation with the board [Board], shall be authorized to hire, or to request the electric-distribution company to hire, the services of qualified consultants to perform ceiling price studies subject to commission [PUC] approval that shall be granted or denied within sixty (60) days of receipt of such request from the office. The cost of such studies shall be recoverable through the rate reconciliation provisions of the electric-distribution company set forth in § 39-26.6-25, subject to commission approval. In addition, the office, in consultation with the board, may request the commission to approve other costs incurred by the board or the electric-distribution company to perform any other studies and reports, subject to the review and approval of the commission, that shall be granted or denied within one hundred twenty (120) days of receipt of such request from the office, and that shall be recoverable through the same reconciliation provisions.”

On March 21, 2016, the Board directed OER to submit a budgetary request of One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00) to perform an economic and jobs impact study of the 2015 and 2016 REG program years. The study will evaluate the costs and benefits of the Small Solar and Commercial Renewable Energy Programs that are within the REG annual program. The Office would release a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) on behalf of the Board in the summer, which would be contingent on the reconciliation funding being approved by the PUC. The Board would have the selected company perform the cost and benefit study in late 2016 and produce a report by March 31, 2017. The report on the results of the 2015 and 2016 REG program years would be publicly presented by the Board; posted on OER’s website; and hard copies provided to the PUC.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Andrew S. Marcaccio

Legal Counsel

Department of Administration on behalf of the Office of Energy Resources

cc: Kenneth Payne, Chairperson, Distributed Generation Board (via email only)
Christopher Kearns, Office of Energy Resources (via email only)
Luly E. Massaro, Clerk, Public Utilities Commission