



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Administration

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

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March 6, 2017

Via U.S. Mail & Email

Linda George, Esq.
Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

RE: 2018 Renewable Energy Growth Program – Ceiling Price Services

Dear Attorney George:

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 a ceiling price study for the 2018 Renewable Energy Growth (“REG”) program year. In addition, we seek approval from the PUC to receive Sixty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$68,000.00) 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 [Office of Energy Resources], in consultation with the board [Distributed Generation 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 February 27, 2017, the Distributed Generation Board (“Board”) directed the Office of Energy Resources (“OER”) to submit a budgetary request of Sixty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$68,000.00) to perform the ceiling price study for the 2018 REG program year. In past years, OER made an annual budgetary request of Sixty Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000.00). The requested additional Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) will be used to examine what potential ceiling prices may look like for carport solar systems should the Board wish to add this category as part of its 2018 REG Program recommendations which are anticipated to be made in the fall of 2017.

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

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Marcaccio

Senior 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