



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
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July 25, 2017

Via U.S. Mail & Email

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

Re: PUC Docket No. 4604 - The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources' Request for Funding to Hire a Consultant for the 2018 Renewable Energy Growth Year

Dear Attorney George:

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-4(b), the Office of Energy Resources ("OER"), in consultation with the Distributed-Generation Board ("DG Board"), is requesting approval from the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") to receive One Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$145,000.00) to perform a Study of Renewable Energy Installation Quality in the Renewable Energy Growth Program ("Study").

For additional information regarding the request, please see the enclosed document entitled "Office of Energy Resources' Request for Funding to Perform a Quality Assurance Study of the Renewable Energy Growth Program".

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

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Marcaccio
Senior Legal Counsel

cc: Kenneth Payne, Chairperson, Distributed Generation Board (via email only)
Christopher Kearns, Office of Energy Resources (via email only)
Service List for PUC Docket No. 4604 (via email only)

Enclosures

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: THE RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF ENERGY :
RESOURCES' REQUEST FOR FUNDING : DOCKET NO. 4604
TO HIRE A CONSULTANT FOR THE 2018 :
RENEWABLE ENERGY GROWTH YEAR :

**OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES' REQUEST FOR FUNDING
TO PERFORM A QUALITY ASSURANCE STUDY OF THE
RENEWABLE ENERGY GROWTH PROGRAM**

I. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Requesting Body:	Office of Energy Resources ("OER") in consultation with the Distributed-Generation Board ("DG Board")
Request Date:	July 25, 2017
Amount Requested:	\$145,000.00
Title of Requested Study/Report:	2017-2018 Study of Renewable Energy Installation Quality in the Renewable Energy Growth Program ("RE Growth Program")
Purpose of the Study/Report:	To independently evaluate the quality of installations of projects installed through the RE Growth Program.
Authority	R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-4(b)

II. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

This request is made pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-4(b) which provides that "[t]he office [OER], in consultation with the board [DG 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 [Public Utilities Commission] 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, office,

or the electric-distribution company to utilize consultants for annual programmatic services or 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”.

III. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On June 26, 2017, the DG Board voted unanimously to authorize and direct OER to request funding in the amount of \$145,000.00 to cover the anticipated costs of a 2017-2018 Study of Renewable Energy Installation Quality in the Renewable Energy Growth Program (“Study”). The Study will examine the quality of renewable energy installations funded by the RE Growth Program. The scope of work will include performing inspections, conducting a formal customer survey, drafting and issuing a report, and making a presentation.

The Study is a follow-up to the 2015-2016 study which was conducted by Cadmus Group, Inc. (“Cadmus”) at a cost of \$125,000.00. The increase in cost for this year’s Study is attributable to an expected increase in medium solar inspections and large solar inspections and the addition of a formal customer survey. The customer survey process will include developing survey content, coordinating with National Grid, issuing the survey, compiling responses, analyzing feedback, and providing a report detailing the survey results.

Inspections will begin in the fall and continue throughout the winter. The anticipated breakdown of project types to be inspected is as follows:

Project Type	Number of Inspections
Small Scale Solar	85
Medium Scale Solar	10
Large Commercial Scale Solar	5
Wind Projects	1

Projects from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 RE Growth Program years may be inspected as part of this Study. Projects from prior RE Growth Program years may be examined because medium, large and commercial projects that received a certificate of eligibility from National Grid during the 2015 and 2016 RE Growth Programs years are being installed during the 2017 and 2018 calendar years.

Projects to be inspected will be selected and priced by size as opposed to other variables such as location and mounting type. If the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) or DG Board has a specific interest in location or other project variable, Cadmus is amenable to adjusting its inspection list.

The Study will result in a final report which will be ready shortly after conclusion of the 2017 RE Growth Program year which ends March 31, 2018. Last year’s report was finalized on April 20th and a similar timeline for this Study is anticipated. A public presentation to the PUC and DG Board is included within the proposed budget.

IV. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-4(b), OER respectfully requests that the PUC grant this request.

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources,
By its attorney,



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CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I filed the original and 10 copies of this Request with the PUC via mail. In addition, I served a copy of this Request to the service list electronically. I certify that all of the foregoing was done on July 25, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. M.", is positioned above a horizontal line.
