

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

**OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES' RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION'S  
SECOND SET OF DATA REQUESTS (ISSUED OCTOBER 4, 2017)**

**2-1. With regard to the Cadmus Study of Renewable Energy Installation Quality in the Renewable Energy Growth Program dated April 20, 2017 (2017 Cadmus Study):**

**a. Which of the study's recommendations have been implemented?**

Response: The 2017 Cadmus Study's recommendation to "Offer Training to Existing Program Participants", specifically the "Local Electrical and Building Inspectors" (See 2017 Cadmus Study, p. 35), has been implemented. In addition, a few National Grid staff attended the training provided to the municipal inspectors, which was also a recommendation contained within the 2017 Cadmus Study.

**b. Which entities are responsible for implementation?**

Response: The 2017 Cadmus Study provides three categories of recommendations, Educational, Programmatic, and Ongoing REG Quality Assurance Reviews, but does not assign a specific entity to each recommendation.

Educational: The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources ("OER") helped facilitate the municipal inspector training and National Grid paid for the Cadmus Group Inc. ("Cadmus") to implement the training. In addition, OER worked with the Rhode Island Building Code Commission to make the training mandatory for all building and electrical officials.

Programmatic: National Grid would be responsible for implementing any program specific recommendations.

Ongoing REG Quality Assurance Reviews: OER has moved forward with the third recommendation to continue REG Quality Assurance Reviews by making this reconciliation request.

**c. When were the recommendations implemented?**

Response: OER and National Grid met and began discussing how to implement the recommendations contained within the 2017 Cadmus Study shortly after it was issued and their efforts are ongoing. More specifically, on June 26, 2017, the Rhode Island Distributed Generation Board (“DG Board”) discussed and voted to approve this request for reconciliation for purposes of satisfying the Ongoing REG Quality Assurance Reviews recommendation and, on June 2, 2017, the municipal training was held at the Community College of Rhode Island.

**d. If recommendations have not been implemented, please explain.**

Response: As mentioned above, OER and National Grid held a meeting after the 2017 Cadmus Study was issued to discuss the recommendations in the report. During this meeting, OER indicated that it planned on recommending to the DG Board that additional quality assurance work continue for the Renewable Energy Growth (“REG”) program, including the recommendation for additional program feedback surveys. In addition, OER and National Grid discussed several of the programmatic recommendations, after which National Grid said it would discuss them internally. At this time, OER is not aware of National Grid implementing any of the programmatic recommendations contained within the 2017 Cadmus Study.

**2-2. Why is now an appropriate time to conduct a follow-up study?**

Response: It has been approximately one year since field inspections took place as part of the 2017 Cadmus Study. It will take several months to complete all of the field inspections that are proposed in Cadmus’ scope of work. (See OER’s Response 1-1 for proposed quantity and types of inspections to be performed.) In addition, field inspections are weather dependent and more field inspections can occur in the fall before winter storms begin. Lastly, larger scale projects have been interconnected since the completion of field inspections performed as part of the 2017 Cadmus Study.

**2-3. Why the need for increased inspections of medium, large, and commercial solar projects?**

Response: The original scope of work for the 2017 Cadmus Study proposed inspections for:

- Small Scale PV - 63
- Medium Scale PV– 16
- Large Scale PV – 10
- Wind – 4

A change to the 2017 scope was made to include a higher volume of small scale inspections, 2 medium scale inspections, and one wind inspection because, at the time field inspections were being scheduled, those were the only categories that had completed interconnected projects. Zero large scale projects were interconnected

during the study period of the 2017 Cadmus Study. OER expects that more large-scale projects will be interconnected for the upcoming study period.

**2-4. Is the survey and/or site inspections collecting information on specific installers, or is the survey anonymous?**

Response: The survey has not yet been designed and a conversation between OER, Cadmus, and National Grid related to whether the survey will be anonymous has not yet occurred. OER treats all identifying information and data of solar installation companies related to site inspections as confidential in accordance with a non-disclosure agreement between National Grid, Cadmus and OER.

**2-5. Will the 2017 Cadmus Study ensure that a reasonable cross section of all developers will be inspected as part of the study?**

Response: Yes, OER and Cadmus will use the same sampling process outlined on page 3 of the 2017 Cadmus Study using the number of interconnected projects that are operational during the study period.

RESPONDENTS: Christopher Kearns and Shauna Beland, Office of Energy Resources  
Date: October 16, 2017

OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES  
By its Attorney,



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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on October 16, 2017, I sent a copy of the foregoing to the service list for PUC Docket No. 4604.



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

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