

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: THE RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES' REQUEST FOR FUNDING TO HIRE A CONSULTANT FOR THE 2017 RENEWABLE ENERGY GROWTH YEAR :
: **DOCKET NO. 4604**
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ORDER

On February 17, 2016, the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) sent a letter to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) requesting funding not to exceed \$85,000 for the purpose of retaining the services of a consultant pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §39-26.6-4(b).¹ OER stated that the consultant would be contracted to perform the ceiling price studies in the 2017 Renewable Energy Growth (REG) program year.² In response to data requests filed by the Commission inquiring as to the increase in funding requested from that of the two previous years, OER provided detailed responses highlighting the additional expenses anticipated in the 2017 program year.³ The anticipated expenses included ceiling prices analyses in Commission dockets, potential pilot programs, the effect of legislative proposals, further analysis of opportunities to design ceiling prices for small solar installations, an increase in discovery, and the potential necessity for additional public meetings and presentations.⁴

At an open meeting held on April 12, 2016, the Commission voted unanimously to approve OER's request for \$85,000. The Commission found that OER's justification of the increase in the anticipated cost to be reasonable. In the event that OER is able to retain a consultant

¹ OER Letter (Feb. 17, 2016). All filings in this docket are available at the PUC offices located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island or at <http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4604page.html>.

² *Id.*

³ OER Response to Comm. Data Request 1-1.

⁴ *Id.*

for less than the \$85,000 authorized, that lower amount is the amount to be recovered from National Grid's ratepayers pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §39-26.6-4(b) and §39-26.6-25.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(22473) ORDERED:

1. The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources' request for funding to retain the services of a consultant to perform the 2017 ceiling price services for the Renewable Energy Growth program in an amount not to exceed \$85,000 is approved.
2. The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources shall provide the Commission with the evaluation scores of the bidders and the identity and amount of the successful bid.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON APRIL 12, 2016 PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION HELD ON APRIL 12, 2016. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED JULY 12, 2016.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Margaret E. Curran

Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson

Paul J. Roberti, Commissioner*

Herbert F. DeSimone

Herbert F. DeSimone, Commissioner

*Commissioner Roberti participated in the decision but was unavailable to sign the Order.

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL: Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within seven days from the date of the order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or order.