

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 : DOCKET NO. 4604  
THE 2019 RENEWABLE ENERGY :  
GROWTH YEAR :

**ORDER**

On November 16, 2017, the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) sent a letter to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) requesting funding not to exceed \$68,000 for the purpose of retaining the services of a consultant pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §39-26.6-4(b).<sup>1</sup> OER stated that the consultant would be retained to perform the ceiling price studies in the 2019 Renewable Energy Growth program year.<sup>2</sup>

At an Open Meeting held on December 20, 2017, the Commission voted unanimously to approve OER's request for \$68,000. The Commission found OER's request for funding to develop the ceiling prices for the 2019 program year to be reasonable and generally in-line with previous requests.<sup>3</sup> The PUC noted that the request was for the same amount that the PUC approved for the 2018 Renewable Energy Growth Program year.<sup>4</sup>

Accordingly, it is hereby

(23015) ORDERED:

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<sup>1</sup> Letter of Andrew S. Marcaccio (Nov. 16, 2017). 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>.

<sup>2</sup> Letter of Andrew S. Marcaccio (Nov. 16, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> It was noted that the consultant's invoices for 2018 did not include an hourly rate or the number of hours billed. The Commission encouraged OER to seek such detailed information in the future. *See* OER Response to PUC 1-2, Attach. A. In discovery filed with the Commission, OER explained that the consultant contract issued in 2014 established a lump sum fixed-fee price agreement to complete the project tasks associated with the annual ceiling price development between 2015 and 2019. In the next request for proposals for consultant services for ceiling price development for 2020 and for future years of the annual program, OER indicated that an hourly services breakdown will be included. *See* OER Response to PUC 2-1.

<sup>4</sup> *See* PUC Order 22765 (Apr. 13, 2017) (Docket No. 4604); [http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4604-OER-Ord22765\\_4-13-17.pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4604-OER-Ord22765_4-13-17.pdf).

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources' request for funding to retain the services of a consultant to perform the 2019 ceiling price services for the Renewable Energy Growth Program in an amount not to exceed \$68,000 is approved.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON DECEMBER 20, 2017 PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED JANUARY 18, 2018.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson

Marion S. Gold, Commissioner

Abigail Anthony, Commissioner

**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.