

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: 2020 RENEWABLE ENERGY GROWTH – :
CLASSES, CEILING PRICES AND CAPACITY :
TARGETS AND 2020 RENEWABLE ENERGY : DOCKET NO. 4983
GROWTH PROGRAM – TARIFFS AND SOLICITATION :
AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS RULES :

OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES’ RESPONSES
TO THE COMMISSION’S FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS

1-1. Has National Grid confirmed that all municipalities have definitions such that they recognize “permeable and/or non-permeable existing or new parking area[s] and associated walkway areas” in a manner that would allow National Grid to confirm the project meets the definition provided in this case? (Springsteel Test. at 4).

Response: National Grid is deferring to the Office of Energy Resources (OER) on engagements with local municipalities regarding the proposed carport adder pilot program. Based on OER’s discussions with local municipal planners, a solar developer who submits a land use application to a local planning and/or zoning office in accordance with the municipality’s existing solar ordinances (assuming the ordinances do not include a solar carport definition) will need to provide evidence (engineering drawings associated with existing or new parking lots, existing land use development lot maps of parking lot site) that the proposed solar carport project is in an existing and/or new permanent parking lot through the development plan review (DPR) or major land development review (MLDR) process that is utilized by the municipality.

The DPR and MLDR are very detailed review processes (application review/decision by municipality can take 3-6 months) and the respective

planning/zoning office staffs and boards will be able to confirm and verify that the proposed application is associated with an existing or new permanent parking lot. OER will monitor potential projects awarded the solar carport adder during the pilot year in consultation with the RI League of Cities and Towns and RI Planners Association. OER and National Grid could provide a status update to the Commission on carport related project activities during the Summer/Fall period.

1-2. Does the definition of carport provided on page 4 of Mr. Springsteel’s testimony allow for the carport adder to apply to carports built over “temporary” parking lots? Should the definition be amended to require the parking lot to be a “permanent” or a space regularly utilized as a parking area?

Response: It is OER’s intent that the carport adder applies to permanent parking lots and not temporary ones. Yes, the definition should be amended to ensure that the potential awarded carport projects are in permanent parking lots and not temporary parking lots. We would recommend a revised definition that includes the word “permanent” to describe the parking lot areas.

Respondent: Christopher Kearns, OER

Date: December 20, 2019