

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN RE: THE OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES** :  
**BUDGET REQUESTS TO PERFORM CEILING** : **DOCKET NO. 4604**  
**PRICE SERVICES OR STUDIES FOR THE** :  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY GROWTH PROGRAM** :

**ORDER**

On April 12, 2023, the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER), in collaboration with the Distributed Generation Board (DG Board), made a request for funding not to exceed \$79,120 to retain the services of a consultant pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §39-26.6-4(b).<sup>1</sup> Based on a memorandum provided by the consultant, Sustainable Energy Advantage (SEA) would be retained to perform the ceiling price studies for the 2024 RE Growth Program Year and to participate in the 2024 RE Growth Program proceedings before the PUC.<sup>2</sup> This request included \$65,000 to complete the contracted scope of work, namely developing ceiling prices for each of the classes of renewable energy technologies in the proposed 2024 RE Growth Program, as well as an additional \$14,120 for the development of rebuttal testimony and related data requests, if necessary.<sup>3</sup>

On May 24, 2023, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, filed through legal counsel, a recommendation to approve the request as reasonable. Specifically, the Division supported the inclusion of the \$14,120 to cover the cost of developing rebuttal testimony or responding to discovery based on the fact that such activities have been necessary during the PUC's review of the Renewable Energy Growth Program classes, targets, and ceiling prices.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> OER Funding Request (Apr. 12, 2023); [https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-05/4604-OER-BudgetRequests-SEA2024\\_4-12-23.pdf](https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-05/4604-OER-BudgetRequests-SEA2024_4-12-23.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 1-2.

<sup>4</sup> Div. Mem. (May 24, 2023); [https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-05/4604-DIV-Memo\\_5-24-23.pdf](https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-05/4604-DIV-Memo_5-24-23.pdf).

At an Open Meeting on May 31, 2023, the PUC reviewed the record and approved the budget request, finding it to be consistent with R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-4(b) and to be reasonable. Although OER did not require the full amount of approved funds for participation in the PUC ceiling price review process last year,<sup>5</sup> the Division did not object to the amount, and any funds not spent will be available to the following year's funding request or otherwise credited to ratepayers through the RE Growth reconciliation process.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(24751) ORDERED:

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources' request for funding to retain the services of a consultant to develop ceiling prices for the 2024 Renewable Energy Growth Program and otherwise participate in PUC proceedings related to the Renewable Energy Growth Program in an amount not to exceed \$79,120 is approved.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND, PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON MAY 31, 2023. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED JULY 20, 2023.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



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Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairman



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Abigail Anthony, Commissioner



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John C. Revens, Jr., Commissioner

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<sup>5</sup> OER Response to PUC Data Requests; [https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-05/4604-OER-DR-PUC1\\_5-3-2023.pdf](https://ripuc.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur841/files/2023-05/4604-OER-DR-PUC1_5-3-2023.pdf).

**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 Rhode Island Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or order.