

Rhode Island Renewable Energy Standard (RES)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)¹

Q: What is the fee for filing an Application for Certification of Eligibility of Renewable Energy Resource?

A: There is no fee for filing such an application.

Q: How long will it take for the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) to make a determination on my application for certification?

A: Upon receiving a completed application, the Commission strives to issue an order certifying eligibility within ninety (90) days. The Commission Clerk will keep a list of interested parties who wish to be notified when an application for certification is filed. Any party may comment on such filings to the Commission in writing within thirty (30) days. Following the 30-day comment period, the Commission will consider an application for certification in an open meeting. The Commission may approve the application at that time, or set the matter for hearing following with not less than a 10-day notice. Please note that this estimated timeline is contingent on the filing party submitting all required and requested information to the Commission and its consultant in a timely manner. Applications are reviewed in the order received and cannot be approved in less than thirty-one (31) days.

Q: Does my facility need to be operational and do I need a NEPOOL-GIS number in order to submit my application for review?

A: An application may be submitted prior to operation and prior to the assignment of a NEPOOL-GIS number. However, other than these two items, an application will not be processed unless all other items are complete. The Commission may conditionally certify a facility, which means that certification becomes complete when the applicant provides evidence of operation and receipt of the NEPOOL-GIS number and receives from the PUC confirmation that the conditions have been met.

Q: How long will it take for the Commission to make a determination on my application for Declaratory Judgment under Section 6.2 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Implementation of a Renewable Energy Standard (Regulations)?

A: The Commission will provide prospective reviews for applicants seeking a preliminary determination as to whether a facility would be eligible prior to the formal certification process described in Section 6.1 of the regulations as follows:

i) Such applicants for prospective review should file a Request for Declaratory Judgment under Rule 1.10(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

¹ Every effort has been made to insure that these FAQs are consistent with the Rules and Regulations Governing the Implementation of a Renewable Energy Standard. To the extent they are not, the Regulations and related PUC orders control.

ii) *Once a request for Declaratory Judgment is received by the Commission under Section 6.0 of the regulations, the Commission will proceed under Section 6.1 (i) through (iii) of the regulations. The Commission will act upon a request for Declaratory Judgment filed under this section within 120 days from receipt of the materials required under Section 6.1 (i)*

Q: At what date, if approved, will the generation from my facility be considered eligible renewable energy for the purposes of the RES?

A: The facility's Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) become Rhode Island-eligible as of the date of the Order issued by the Commission. Only RECs associated with the production of eligible energy that are minted on or after the Effective Date are eligible for the RES (for example, the minting date for GIS Quarter 1 RECs is July 15th, therefore -- provided the Commission issues its facility-specific eligibility order on or before July 15th -- All RECs created starting January 1 will be eligible).

Q: If my facility was granted conditional certification, on what date will the generation from my facility be considered eligible renewable energy for the purpose of the RES?

A: For a facility which was granted conditional certification, the Effective Date is the date upon which the Commission confirms receipt of sufficient evidence supporting removal of the condition (i.e., a NEPOOL-GIS number and evidence of operation) through issuance of a letter removing the condition. RECs associated with the production of eligible energy that are minted on or after the Effective Date are eligible for the RES.

Q: According to the RES, landfill methane or biogas is an eligible biomass fuel, provided that such gas is collected and conveyed directly to the Generation Unit without use of facilities used as common carriers of natural gas. Does this imply that landfill gas that is purified and injected in a natural gas pipeline would not be eligible under RES?

A: Yes, it implies that landfill gas that is purified and injected in a natural gas pipeline would not be eligible under the RES.

Q: Can RECs that are bought for any Compliance Year be placed either in a Reserved Certificate Account or My Settled Certificates Account?

A: No, RECs that are to be utilized for compliance and/or for banking purposes must be placed only in an entity's My Settled Certificates account. More specifically, the account must be a GIS sub-account designated for Rhode Island obligations (e.g., RI Sub-account). RECs in a Reserved Account or left outside of a settled, Rhode Island sub-account will not be eligible for current year compliance or banking.

Q: How does the Commission verify annual load data used by an Obligated Entity?

A: The Commission reviews data provided by the local distribution company to verify the annual, fully-reconciled load data used by an Obligated Entity. The Commission encourages all Obligated Entities to contact the local distribution company, The Narragansett Electric

Company d/b/a National Grid to confirm their Rhode Island-specific obligations and calculations.

Q: For the Compliance Year 2013, what is the percentage of electricity that an Obligated Entity shall obtain from Eligible Renewable Energy Resources?

A: For the Compliance Year 2013, an Obligated Entity must obtain at least seven and one-half percent (7.5%) of electricity (including line losses) sold to Rhode Island end-use customers from Eligible Renewable Energy Resources, with no less than five and one-half percent (5.5%) from New Renewable Energy Resources.

Q: What is the percentage of electricity for future compliance years that an Obligated Entity shall obtain from Eligible Renewable Energy Resources?

A: Future obligation targets for Obligated Entities can be accessed under the following link on our website:

<http://www.ripuc.org/utilityinfo/RES-Annual-Targets.pdf>

Q: What is the Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) rate for a given compliance year?

A: ACP rates can be accessed under the following link on our website:

<http://www.ripuc.org/utilityinfo/RES-ACPRate.pdf>

Please note that the ACP rate shall be determined according to Section 3.1 of the Regulations.

Q: Whom should I contact for instructions on making an ACP?

A: Please contact the following person for necessary instructions on making ACP:

*Kathy O'Brien
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101
Providence, RI 02908
Tel: (401) 278-9100
Email: kobrien@commerceri.com*

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