

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

## Intra-Department Communication

DATE: March 16, 2015

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

*EN*

**FROM:** Elizabeth R. Nixon, Energy Analyst

**SUBJECT:** DE 10-212 Commercial and Industrial Solar Rebate Program  
Program Clarification Regarding Projects with Master Meters at  
Institutional Campuses

**TO:** Chairman Martin P. Honigberg  
Commissioner Robert R. Scott  
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary  
Karen Cramton, Director, Sustainable Energy Division

**CC:** David K. Wiesner, Staff Attorney

The Public Utilities Commission (Commission) approved a Commercial and Industrial (C&I) solar rebate program (Program), pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, VIII, by Order No. 25,151 issued on October 1, 2010. Recently, a C&I applicant requested clarification regarding the definition of a project at institutional campuses with one or more “master” meters, such that some of the projects on the campus that have applied for a rebate will not have a separate utility meter.

On December 18, 2013, the Commission by secretarial letter made modifications and clarifications to the Program, based on a staff memorandum dated November 4, 2013. One of these clarifications is as follows:

*Clarify that the project maximum rebate of \$50,000 is not limited to a single project per address but that multiple projects at a single address or multiple addresses are eligible so long as each project is separately metered.*

This clarification was made after consideration of a situation where one property address could have multiple buildings, each with a separate utility meter, upon which a separate solar photovoltaic system could be installed.

The current inquiry involves an institutional campus with many buildings and one or more master meters connected to the distribution utility. Specifically, this applicant is a boarding and day school with master meters connected to the utility and a private grid to interconnect each of its various buildings with a master meter. One of the common utility meters for the campus serves over 30 buildings. The applicant proposes to install independent, stand-alone solar systems serving different buildings and locations, each of which has a separate address. These solar projects are separate and do not share common

equipment or infrastructure. There is not, however, a separate utility meter for each building or location and the solar project proposed to be installed thereon or thereat.

The scenario now requiring clarification was not contemplated at the time of the December 2013 modifications and clarifications. Staff therefore recommends that the Commission now clarify that the requirement for each project to have a separate utility meter is not applicable to an institutional campus with one or more “master” utility meters serving multiple, separate buildings or locations, if the projects do not share common equipment or infrastructure and the master meters were installed prior to submission of the respective rebate application(s).

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