

From: Bev Edwards [<mailto:nadesha@msn.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 8:37 PM
To: Howland, Debra
Subject: Comment on DE 15-302

Dear Ms. Howland,

Please accept my Comment for DE 15-302. I apologize for not having realized that the deadline has passed. I will understand if that means it cannot be included. But if you can take it, thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Beverly Edwards
603-878-3227
nadesha@msn.com

October 23, 2017

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DE 15-302, Residential Renewable Energy Generation Incentive Program, Modification of Incentive Payment Levels

Dear Ms. Howland,

In the interest of sustaining the implementation of the Residential Renewable Energy Generation Incentive Program amidst the present need to revise its renewable subsidies downward, I want to voice my support for several of the comments on the DE 15-302 docket and make a comment of my own. I agree with the NHSEA that “It is essential to balance the per-system rebate amount and the need to keep the program open and operational throughout the entire program year.” I strongly support its recommendation that the Commission “continue to consider how the REF and solar electricity system ownership can be better accessed by moderate and lower income NH residents.” I also appreciate the PUC Staff’s recommendations and Pat Martin’s analysis (including her later correction) of the problems with the implementation of the REF. And I fully support Ms. Martin’s statement, “It’s become obvious that the RPS goal of achieving 25% renewable energy in the generation mix is totally inadequate to the growing demand by the public to achieve 100% renewable electricity supply by 2030. We must strengthen our REF and invest in robust and innovative projects.”

That amplifies the voice of the citizens in 164 NH towns that passed warrant articles in 2007 specifically asking for increased reductions of GHG emissions, and it underscores the importance of vigorously implementing the REF. The value of finding more reliable and effective ways to fortify its implementation cannot be understated. It is no longer reasonable to patiently accept a gradual transition to renewable power. We need to shift gears. We need to reverse our state’s outflow of \$6 billion a year and 15 million tons of CO2 for out-of-state fossil fuels. That’s without including the methane from HV/HF gas leaks and infrastructure emissions (far worse than CO2). And, if for its relevance for cost-effective policy, alone, we must avoid pumping the engine of global warming to save our state and ratepayers from the exorbitant costs of escalating climate extremes – more “100 year floods”, droughts that shut down our dairies, 14-day power-outages like the Ice Storm of 2008 (speaking of “energy reliability issues”), shrinking sea coast issues, etc.

Now that the price of solar power has dropped by 75% since 2007, it’s the cheapest, most cost-effective energy source on the market. That, coupled with a solid, hearty REF, can help activate investments in the development of an aggressive renewable energy economy for NH, adding to fuel diversity and supporting quality in-state jobs for a young workforce.

After riding out this year's slump, we must strengthen the stability of the REF and create increased funding capacity for it to create one of the smartest programs the Commission can implement for the benefit of consumers and the state.

Thank you for taking my comments.

Beverly Edwards

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