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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
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November 6, 2019

Re: Docket Nos. DE 10-024, DE 10-212, DE 13-298, DE 15-302 and DE 17-172
Fiscal Year 2020 Renewable Energy Fund Program Budgets

To the Parties:

On September 6, 2019, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a memorandum recommending specific program funding allocations for the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) for fiscal year 2020 (FY20). On September 24, 2019, the Commission held a public comment hearing to receive comments on Staff's recommendations before approval of the recommended FY20 REF program allocations and related actions. In addition, parties were afforded the opportunity to submit written comments regarding Staff's recommendations until September 30, 2019.

Stakeholders noted that the closure of the solar rebate programs is disruptive to the market and negatively impacts project owners, developers, and beneficiaries. Stakeholders also acknowledged the need to incentivize the development of projects that will generate renewable energy certificates needed to meet increasing Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) obligations: namely, Class I-Thermal and Class IV Small Hydroelectric. Finally, Stakeholders suggested using the Clean Energy Fund to supplement REF program funds. After consideration of Staff's recommendations and stakeholders' public comments, the Commission has determined that the process for deciding the use of the Clean Energy Fund should continue as set out in DE 14-238 and DE 11-250, and has modified the REF program funding allocations as set forth below:

Program Name	Carry Forward Funding from Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19)	FY20 "New" Program Funding Allocations	Total FY20 Allocations Including Carry Forward from FY19
Residential Solar & Wind Rebates	\$ 612,031	\$ \$667,823	\$ 1,279,854
Residential Solar Thermal Rebates	\$ 3,705	(\$3,705)	\$ -
Residential Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$ 220,308	\$ 300,000	\$ 520,308
Low-Moderate Income Grants	\$ 650,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 1,250,000
Total Residential	\$ 1,486,044	\$ 1,564,118	\$ 3,050,162
C&I Solar Rebates	\$ 2,005,763	\$ 519,768	\$ 2,525,531
C&I Wood Pellet Boiler/Furnace Rebates	\$ 398,333	\$ 390,205	\$ 788,538
C&I Competitive Grants	\$ 1,645,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 2,895,000
Total Commercial & Industrial (C&I)	\$ 4,049,096	\$ 2,159,973	\$ 6,209,069
Total Program Budget	\$ 5,535,140	\$ 3,724,091	\$ 9,259,029

The Commission further approves the following related program actions:

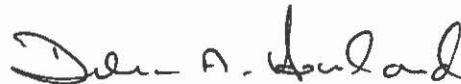
- Close the Residential Solar Thermal Rebate Program during FY20;
- Fund current waitlisted applications in the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Solar Rebate Program and keep the program closed to new applications until further revisions are made;
- Release requests for proposals (RFPs) for the C&I Competitive Grants and Low Moderate Income Grants; and
- Accept new applications for all other rebate programs.

The Commission further directs Staff to do the following:

- Schedule a technical session to solicit stakeholder input on modifications to the C&I Solar Rebate Program terms and conditions. The Commission suggests consideration of actions, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Reduction in rebate level (¢/watt) to enable funding for more projects;
 - Reduction in maximum rebate amount;
 - Limitation of program to provide funding only to projects needing an incentive to move forward; and
 - Simplification of the application and review processes.
- Issue an RFP for the C&I Competitive Grants that seeks proposals only for projects that will generate Class I (new renewables), Class I-Thermal (thermal), and Class IV (small hydroelectric) renewable energy certificates.
- Issue an RFP for the Low Moderate Income Grants program.
- Issue a memorandum in Docket No. DE 13-298 outlining specific recommendations to streamline the application process for the Residential Wood Pellet Central Boiler/Furnace Rebate Program, along with a request for a public comment hearing to consider the proposed program changes.

As funding levels remain limited for renewable energy programs, the Commission encourages Staff to research incentives other than rebates that will further stimulate the market for renewable energy development. Pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, any program revisions would require notice and hearing to receive stakeholder comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,



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