

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

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COMMISSION EXPANDS FUNDING FOR SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS — Residential Solar Projects Get Boost, Clean Energy Jobs Created —

Albany, NY—06/18/09—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today set aside \$15.6 million from its landmark Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program to continue funding of the statewide solar photovoltaic (PV) program in response to increased demand and changing market needs for this important renewable energy technology.

“What we are doing is transferring funds to where they can be best utilized in the RPS program in response to the desire of consumers who want to install solar energy systems to help meet their energy needs,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown.

The Commission adopted changes to the RPS program by reallocating and increasing funds for the solar PV program of the customer-sited tier by \$15 million in response to the continued increasing market demand for that specific renewable energy technology, and by making a corresponding \$600,000 reallocation for increased evaluation of that program. One added benefit from the Commission’s decision will be to encourage the creation of clean-energy jobs related to the design and installation of new solar projects.

The increased funding comes from approximately \$110 million of unencumbered funds in the RPS program, primarily from projects that were chosen in previous renewable energy procurement solicitations, but never materialized. Customer-sited resources include only self-generation, "behind-the-meter" facilities located in New York.

The customer-sited tier currently provides support for solar PV systems, fuel cells, anaerobic digestion biogas systems, and small wind turbines. Based on the monthly demand rates for solar PV systems, this specific allocation should satisfy that demand at least through 2009. The Commission will continue to evaluate this allocation and all aspects of the performance of all programs as further review is conducted of RPS.

New York has a solid history of supporting development of renewable energy. On September 24, 2004, the Commission adopted a policy of increasing to at least 25 percent by 2013 the proportion of electricity used by retail consumers in New York derived from renewable resources. The RPS program was created to implement that policy and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) was designated as the administrator of the program.

The Commission's decision today, when issued, may be obtained by going to the Commission Documents section of the Commission's Web site at www.dps.state.ny.us and entering Case Number 03-E-0188 in the input box labeled "Search for Case/Matter Number." Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission orders may also be obtained from the Commission's Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500).