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Audrey Zibelman, Chair

Contact:

Jon Sorensen | Jon.Sorensen@dps.ny.gov | (518) 474-7080

<http://www.dps.ny.gov> <http://twitter.com/NYS DPS>

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Municipalities Can Now Join Together to Purchase More Affordable, Cleaner Power for Residents & Small Businesses

Public Service Commission Approves ‘Community Choice Aggregation’ Another Major Step in the Development of REV - Reforming the Energy Vision

Albany - Cities, towns and villages in New York can now join together to form Community Choice Aggregations (CCAs) to collectively provide electricity for their residents and small businesses enabling greater energy savings and consumer choice. The New York State Public Service Commission today approved a statewide order for these new organizations, which will engage consumers in new energy-efficiency and clean-energy initiatives at the community and grassroots level.

“This is a major step forward for REV – Reforming the Energy Vision -- Governor Cuomo’s strategy to lead the fight against climate change and grow New York’s economy,” said Commission Chair Audrey Zibelman. “Through the greater bargaining power aggregation provides, CCAs can work with their energy supplier to offer resources that reduce bills and meet local clean energy goals.”

Just as communities come together under Governor Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Councils, CCAs will foster cooperation among municipal officials, community leaders, environmental organizations and business professionals to produce the best energy solutions for their region of the state, Chair Zibelman said. These community-led initiatives will also be a key tool in achieving Governor Cuomo’s Clean Energy Standard, a mandate to generate enough renewable power to meet half of the state’s power needs by the year 2030.

Westchester Power, the CCA pilot program approved by the Commission last year, is about to begin serving more than 110,000 residents and small businesses in 20 municipalities in Westchester County. Fourteen of the participating municipalities in Westchester County have adopted a 100% renewable energy default power supply from renewable energy credits purchased for solar, wind and hydropower.

Several prospective CCAs have been organizing around the state, including a multi-county CCA proposed by the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance, Inc. (MEGA). MEGA’s plan is to serve roughly 500,000 residents in 11 counties from the Finger Lakes to the Hudson Valley.

Under today’s order, prospective CCAs must submit plans for consumer outreach and data sharing when seeking Commission approval of a new CCA. In addition, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will provide technical assistance to municipalities considering CCAs.

CCAs will also meet other key goals of REV: creating a greater number of small, local, clean power plants throughout the state and increasing the benefits of retail competition for residential and business customers. Westchester Power has a provision in its contracts that allows for the purchase of additional renewable power with its customers sharing in any additional savings. While its renewable power will be initially provided through the purchase of renewable energy credits, the Westchester CCA hopes to eventually buy power directly from renewable generators, including new power supplies in Westchester County.

About Reforming the Energy Vision

Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) is Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's strategy to lead on climate change and grow New York's economy. REV is building a cleaner, more resilient and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers by stimulating investment in clean technologies like solar, wind, and energy efficiency and generating 50 percent of the state's electricity needs from renewable energy by 2030. Already, REV has driven 600 percent growth in the statewide solar market, enabled over 105,000 low-income households to permanently cut their energy bills with energy efficiency, and created thousands of jobs in manufacturing, engineering, and other clean tech sectors. REV is ensuring New York State reduces statewide greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and achieves the internationally-recognized target of reducing emissions 80 percent by 2050. To learn more about REV, including the Governor's \$5 billion investment in clean energy technology and innovation, please visit www.ny.gov/REV4NY and follow us at @Rev4NY.