

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

08109/03-E-0188

CONSUMER'S ABILITY TO GENERATE ENERGY EXPANDED **—PSC Acts to Spur Home- and Farm-Based Electricity Production —**

Albany, NY—10/15/08—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today changed its landmark Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program to provide an additional \$42.6 million in grants to assist residential and commercial consumers throughout New York State to install solar panels and other types of electricity-producing equipment.

“Development of renewable, clean energy generation is of paramount necessity in New York because of its positive environmental benefits,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “Today, we are substantially improving the financial assistance provided to consumers interested in producing their own electricity. The renewable energy produced will replace electricity traditionally purchased from the local utility. As an added bonus, participating consumers can sell excess electricity that they generate to the utility; helping offset demand elsewhere.”

As authorized, \$20.6 million is being made available to install solar photovoltaic systems. In addition, \$7.6 million is being made available to install anaerobic digester biogas systems, which convert the energy stored in organic materials into biogas, which is fed directly into a combustion turbine to generate electricity. Finally, \$18.8 million is being set aside to pay for evaluation, measurement and verification of these renewable energy technologies, as well as to provide discretionary funding to respond to changing market needs. The financial resources are available for self-generation, "behind-the-meter" facilities located in New York.

With the additional allocation, more than 90,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of annual generation are expected to be achieved, enough for thousands of homes and almost 70 percent more than would have been previously produced through 2009. The RPS program is administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority for the Commission.

Prior to this new authorization, the RPS program provided \$45 million in support for solar photovoltaic systems, fuel cells, anaerobic digestion biogas systems, and small wind turbines. The goal of the RPS program is to increase to 25 percent by 2013 the proportion of electricity used by retail consumers in New York State derived from renewable resources. The RPS program is scheduled to undergo a review in 2009.

The Commission's decision today, when issued, may be obtained from the Commission's www.dps.state.ny.us Web site by accessing the Commission's File Room section of the homepage and referencing Case 03-E-0188. 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).