

STATE OF NEW YORK

# Public Service Commission

Garry A. Brown, Chairman

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## **PSC APPROVES NYSERDA FUNDING REQUEST**

— **Combined Heat Power Program, Workforce Development Receive Significant Boost** —

Albany, NY – 12/13/12 – The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today approved the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)'s request to modify various Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (EEPS) program budgets and targets and to reallocate more than \$100 million in funds for a combined heat and power (CHP) program, a workforce development initiative, and a natural gas program for low-income customers.

“We continue to view the pursuit of energy efficiency as a critical component of any plan to ensure that the State’s energy needs can be met reliably at a reasonable cost,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “Having programs available to encourage the installation of state-of-the-art energy efficiency equipment, help train the energy workforce of the future, and assist low-income consumers are all essential parts of this effort.”

With the Commission’s decision, NYSERDA will be allowed to reallocate certain EEPS funds for three on-going initiatives:

- \$58.6 million to the CHP program;
- \$28.1 million to continue and expand workforce development initiatives; and
- \$13.8 million to the low-income EmPower natural gas program.

“We thank the Commission for its continued support and approval of our petition that will allow NYSERDA to offer New Yorkers programs to incorporate energy efficiency into their homes and businesses, develop combined heat and power opportunities, and grow our clean energy workforce,” said Francis J. Murray Jr., President and CEO, NYSERDA. “This investment demonstrates the State's continued commitment under Governor Cuomo to ensure it can provide reliable and affordable energy utilizing a well-trained workforce.”

The CHP program provides funding for installations to provide efficient, reliable, clean power and peak load reduction within load centers. These installations are capable of achieving high levels of fuel efficiency by simultaneously producing both electric and useful thermal energy at the facility where the energy is needed. This localized generation can both reduce a facility's vulnerability to electric distribution system outages and decrease peak demands on the electric grid.

The workforce development initiative includes career pathways initiatives that prepare workers for energy efficiency jobs and expand the skills of the existing workforce. The initiative will focus on technical training and the development of on-the-job practical skills related to the installation, operation and maintenance of energy efficient equipment. A technically trained workforce is critical to realizing the EEPS energy savings goals.

EmPower NY provides cost-effective gas and electric reduction and home performance measures at no cost to low-income households, including energy audits, in-home energy-use education, and energy-use management workshops in low-income neighborhoods.

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.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov) and entering Case Number 07-M-0548 or 10-M-0457 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). Individuals with difficulty understanding or reading English are encouraged to call the Commission at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this press release.