

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

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11045/10-E-0645

COMMISSION SIMPLIFIES NET METERING RULES

— Change Makes It Easier, More Profitable to Sell Electricity to Utility —

Albany, NY—5/19/11— The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today voted to require that major electric utilities in New York allow net metering customers the option to select when they can cash-out their net metering credits. By providing greater options as to timing, customers will be able to maximize the value of their credits.

“Encouraging homeowners and small businesses to install small-scale renewable energy systems provides long-term benefits to the environment and the economy,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “Our decision today provides consumers with additional choices and greater flexibility to save money. It also makes it easier and more understandable to net meter.”

Residential solar net metered customers are paid by the utility for any electricity produced in excess of what the customer actually uses on an annual basis. If the annual anniversary date for the customer occurs after the high electricity producing summer period, any excess production payments would typically be cashed out by the utility at a much lower rate.

To avoid this disadvantage, the customer is now permitted to opt to individually select an anniversary date for the cash-out of excess net metering credits. This option was also extended to the farm waste, residential wind, and farm wind customers that are also eligible to cash out excess credits, because they could confront disadvantages similar to those that face residential solar customers.

Under earlier rules, utilities with net meter eligible customers credited an excess of generation production over usage during a billing period to the next bill. Utilities, however, were interpreting differently the statutory requirements for calculating the billing credits. The Commission's decision establishes the rules the utilities must follow when making the calculations, and puts the calculation squarely in favor of the customer, by directing the utilities to reflect all kWh rate elements, including block rates where applicable, when calculating net metering credits.

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 10-E-0645 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).