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NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF COMPETITIVE SOLAR INCENTIVE (“CSI”) PROGRAM PURSUANT TO P.L. 2021, C.169

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

[Docket No. QO21101186](#)

Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBP" or "Board") invites all interested parties and members of the public to provide written responses to the Request for Information ("RFI") contained in this Notice on the Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program registration process.

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On June 9, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law the Solar Act of 2021 (hereafter "Solar Act" or "Act").¹ The Act directed the Board to facilitate the development of 3,750 MW of solar by 2026 by establishing a new programs for incentivizing solar in New Jersey through the mechanism of Solar Renewable Energy Certificates ("SREC-IIs"). SREC-IIs represent the value of the environmental attributes produced by the solar electric power generation facility. The Act directs the Board to create both a solar facilities program for smaller projects, with administratively set incentive values, and a solicitation process for awarding contracts for grid supply solar facilities and net metered solar facilities greater than five (5) MW.

The Board took a major step forward to implementing the Solar Act on July 28, 2021, voting unanimously to implement the Clean Energy Act of 2018 (P.L. 2018, c. 17) and the Solar Act by

¹ L. 2021, c. 169.

creating the Successor Solar Incentive (“SuSI”) Program.² The SuSI Program has set the State on a path to double its solar capacity by 2026.

The SuSI Program is divided into the Administratively Determined Incentive (“ADI”) and CSI Programs. On December 7, 2022, the Board issued an Order providing for establishment of the CSI Program (“CSI Order”).³ The CSI Program covers all grid supply solar projects (i.e., those selling into the wholesale markets) and net metered non-residential projects above five (5) MW in size. This program will award SREC-IIs through a competitive solicitation and is structured into four (4) market segments, or tranches: basic grid supply; grid supply projects located on the built environment; grid supply projects on contaminated sites and landfills; and net metered non-residential projects greater than five (5) MW. An additional fifth tranche allows for storage in combination with a grid supply solar award. The total procurement for the first solicitation sums to 300MW.

The prequalification window for the first CSI Program solicitation opened February 1, 2023, and the bid submission closes on March 31, 2023 at 11:59:59 PM EST.

CSI bids will be selected on price, and the Board will announce winners after the solicitation closes. After the announcement, winning projects will have 30 days to register with the SuSI Program Administrator, following the requirements laid out in the CSI Order.⁴ The registration requirements in the CSI Order essentially followed the requirements laid out in the adopted rules governing the SuSI Program.⁵

It has been brought to Staff’s attention that there are concerns with the requirement in the CSI Order that a registration package shall include electrical and building permits or documentation that applications for electrical and building permits have been submitted to the relevant municipality. Staff is looking into these concerns and potential remedies if they prove to be well founded, and invites interested parties to submit comments on this specific matter.

Staff seeks input on the following questions:

1. Have you experienced or do you anticipate barriers to submitting applications for electrical and building permits to relevant municipalities within the timeframe in accordance with the requirements of the CSI Program?
2. What if any, changes to the registration requirement do you consider necessary?

² In re A Solar Successor Incentive Program Pursuant to P.L. 2018, c.17, 2021 N.J. PUC LEXIS 300, BPU Docket No. QO20020184 (July 28, 2021).

³ In re Competitive Solar Incentive (“CSI”) Program Pursuant to L. 2021, c. 169, 2022 N.J. PUC LEXIS 367, BPU Docket No. QO21101186 (Dec. 7, 2022).

⁴ Id. at 32-33.

⁵ N.J.A.C. §14:8-11.5(d)

COMMENTS

All public comments should be filed under Docket No. **QO21101186**.

The deadline for comments on this matter is 5 p.m. on March 15, 2022.

Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s [Public Document Search](#). Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain rules requiring paper submissions have been temporarily waived. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board’s e-filing system or by email to the Acting Secretary of the Board. Please include “Confidential Information” in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board’s webpage <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

E-mailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:

Carmen D. Diaz

Acting Secretary of the Board

44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor

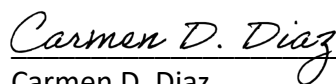
PO Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Phone: 609-913-6241

Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Please direct all questions on this matter to Diane Watson at diane.watson@bpu.nj.gov with the subject “In the Matter of Competitive Solar Incentive (“CSI”) Program pursuant to P.L. 2021, C,169, Docket No. QO21101186.”

Board Staff looks forward to receiving and reviewing your responses.



Carmen D. Diaz

Acting Secretary of the Board

Dated: March 7, 2023