

DOCKETED

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| Docket Number: | 16-RPS-01 |
| Project Title: | Developing Guidelines for the 50 Percent Renewables Portfolio Standard |
| TN #: | 212229 |
| Document Title: | Notice Requesting Public Comments on Draft Renewables Portfolio Standard Eligibility Guidebook, Ninth Edition |
| Description: | This is the Notice for Public Comments on the Draft RPS Eligibility Guidebook 9th Edition |
| Filer: | Judi Carter |
| Organization: | California Energy Commission |
| Submitter Role: | Commission Staff |
| Submission Date: | 7/11/2016 10:47:45 AM |
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Sacramento, California 95814Main website: www.energy.ca.gov

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| In the matter of: |) | Docket No. 16-RPS-01 |
| |) | |
| Developing Guidelines for the 50 |) | REQUEST FOR COMMENTS |
| Percent Renewables Portfolio Standard |) | RE: Guideline Revisions for |
| |) | RPS Implementation |

**Notice Requesting Public Comments on Draft
*Renewables Portfolio Standard Eligibility Guidebook, Ninth Edition***

California Energy Commission staff is seeking written comments on the Draft *Renewables Portfolio Standard Eligibility Guidebook (RPS Guidebook), Ninth Edition* (Publication No. CEC-300-2016-006-ED9-SD). The document is available in both clean and underline/strikeout format at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/portfolio/16-RPS-01/documents/>

The *RPS Guidebook* describes the eligibility requirements and process for certifying renewable resources as eligible for California's RPS and describes how the Energy Commission verifies compliance with the RPS. The *RPS Guidebook* is revised periodically to reflect statutory, market, and regulatory developments and to respond to lessons learned through implementing the RPS program.

Senate Bill 350 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015) amended the existing law as it relates to RPS. Changes under Senate Bill 350 are identified below and reflected in the Draft *RPS Guidebook*. Additional changes under Senate Bill 350 will be implemented through amendments to the Energy Commission's *Enforcement Procedures for the Renewables Portfolio Standard for Local Publicly Owned Electric Utilities*.

A Scoping Workshop was held on March 17, 2016, to solicit public comments on staff's proposed revisions to the eighth edition of the *RPS Guidebook*, including new topics for potential changes to the next edition of the *RPS Guidebook*. Both oral and written comments were considered by staff and presented to the Renewables Lead Commissioner. The revisions are based on both Lead Commissioner as well as stakeholder feedback which are reflected in the Draft *RPS Guidebook, Ninth Edition*.

Staff mentioned at the Scoping Workshop that the Energy Commission is in the process of developing a new RPS Online System based on the RPS forms in the eighth edition of the *RPS Guidebook*. This will replace the RPS forms and allow for online submission of RPS applications and reports. In February 2016, a small focus group was conducted to provide hands-on training on the account management set-up and to get feedback. A second focus group is planned for late July 2016 to get their feedback on the use of RPS certification application in the system. Public workshops will be conducted in late summer to train the participants on the use of the RPS Online System. A separate training manual will be made available on the Energy Commission's RPS web page to assist users when using the system. The new system will be operational when the *RPS Guidebook* takes effect.

The proposed substantive and nonsubstantive changes are related to the following topics:

- Increasing the renewable energy procurement target for the RPS to 50 percent by 2030, and amending the RPS eligibility requirements of a facility engaged in the combustion of municipal solid waste.
- Incorporating changes to address the launch of the RPS Online System, which will replace the RPS certification application, supplemental, and reporting forms, and change the process for submitting RPS certification applications, requests for time extension for certification applications, and the annual facility and load-serving entity reports. All references to the forms in the *RPS Guidebook* that are now in the RPS Online System will be removed.
- Recasting the Interim Tracking System as a process for making Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) adjustments, and describing how the WREGIS adjustment process may be used by load-serving entities in limited circumstances using the RPS Online System.
- Extending the deadline for determining the eligibility date of a facility's commercial operation from 90 days to 180 days, if requirements are met.
- Extending the deadline for amending a certification application from within 90 days of the change to 180 days, to align with the 180-day deadline when determining the eligibility date of a facility.
- Offering an alternate documentation requirement for biomethane facilities delivered through a common carrier pipeline if a biomethane procurement contract do not exist or the biomethane production facility and the electrical generation facility are owned by the same entity or individual.
- Clarifying the eligibility requirements of hydroelectric generation facilities operated as part of water supply or conveyance system.
- Clarifying the WREGIS registration requirement for certification application.
- Expanding the requirements for requests for the creation of retroactive renewable energy credits (RECs) in WREGIS and clarifying the process. Allowing resubmittal of compliance reports if retroactive RECs are created in WREGIS.
- Clarifying the de minimis allowance for existing facilities that were recertified under the eighth edition of the *RPS Guidebook*.
- Refining the description of facility statuses.
- Updating the criteria for amending an RPS certification, and the RPS certification types.
- Clarifying that precertification applications are not allowed for aggregate unit applications.
- Modifying the requirements for deadlines and submission dates.
- Incorporating Resolution Nos. 16-0309-04A and 16-0309-04B adopted by the Energy Commission at the March 2016, business meeting that (1) updated the language in the Appeals section of the *RPS Guidebook*, and (2) established a process for local publicly owned electric utilities to request to move surplus retired RECs reported for a specified compliance period to the following compliance period.
- Removing topics or sections that are no longer applicable from the main body of the guidebook and adding them to a guidebook Appendix for historical reference only.
- Other minor clarifications and corrections.

Staff will consider written public comments on the proposed changes to the *RPS Guidebook*, incorporate any needed revisions, and then release the final draft of the guidebook for consideration by the full Energy Commission at a regularly scheduled business meeting. Public Resources Code Section 25747 authorizes the Energy Commission to approve substantive changes to the guidebook upon providing ten days public notice. Changes take effect once approved at a publicly noticed meeting.

Written Comments

Written comments should be submitted to the Energy Commission's e-commenting online system no later than **5:00 p.m.** on **July 25, 2016**.

1. Go to the Energy Commission's website: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/e-filing/>.
2. Click "Comment on a Proceeding" in the Additional Information box.
3. Type "16-RPS-01" into the Select a Proceeding field.
4. Click "Continue" to Add a Comment.
5. Commenters are required to input their full name, email address, and comment title. Comment title should be "Jane Doe or Company Name Comment re Draft RPS Guidebook."
6. Type comments into the "Comment Text" field or upload a document with comments. Comments should be in a downloadable, searchable format such as Microsoft® Word (.doc or .docx) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf).
7. Enter the CAPTCHA that is used to prevent spamming on the website. Then click on "Agree and Submit your Comments".

For additional information, see Standing Order re: Proceedings and Confidentiality Procedural Requirements for Filing, Service, and Docketing Documents with the Energy Commission, available at: www.energy.ca.gov/commission/chief_counsel/docket.html.

Additionally, written comments will be posted to the Energy Commission's website for the proceeding. Please note that your written comments, attachments, and associated contact information (for example, your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the viewable public record. This information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other search engines.

If you prefer, you may send a paper copy of your comments to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: **Docket No. 16-RPS-01**
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Other Commission Contacts

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

If you have questions on the subject matter of this issue, please contact Lynette Green at Lynette.Green@energy.ca.gov or (916) 653-2728.

Date: July 11, 2016
Mail List: renewable