

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Developing Guidelines for the 50 Percent Renewables Portfolio Standard
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814Main website: www.energy.ca.gov

In the matter of:) Docket No. 16-RPS-01
)
 Developing Guidelines for the 50 Percent) Notice of Business Meeting
 Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS)) RE: RPS Implementation
)

Notice of Proposed Change to Renewables Portfolio Standard Guidelines

The California Energy Commission will conduct a Business Meeting on:

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

10:00 a.m.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street

First Floor, Arthur Rosenfeld Hearing Room

Sacramento, California

(Wheelchair Accessible)

Remote Access Available by Computer or Phone via WebEx™
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As part of the July 12, 2017, Business Meeting, the Energy Commission will consider adopting staff's recommendation to revise the *Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) Eligibility Guidebook, Ninth Edition (Revised) April 2017, CEC-300-2016-006-ED9-CMF-REV, (RPS Eligibility Guidebook, Ninth Edition (Revised))* to clarify the RPS certification requirements for aggregated units. If adopted by the Energy Commission, the proposed revisions to the RPS certification requirements for aggregated units will be effective upon adoption, but the actual revisions will not appear in the RPS Eligibility Guidebook until the next edition.

Background

Under Chapter 5, Section C (2)(e) of the *RPS Eligibility Guidebook, Ninth Edition (Revised)* distributed generation facilities within an aggregated unit must meet one of the following requirements: "1) Have received benefits from a ratepayer-funded incentive program. 2) Participate in a net metering tariff with a LSE. or 3) Primarily serves onsite load."

Upon review, staff identified that the *RPS Guidebook, Fourth Edition* specifically excluded from RPS eligibility distributed generation facilities that fell within any of the three aforementioned categories, except under limited circumstances. These restrictions on RPS eligibility were kept in place until issues pertaining to the use of tradable Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for the RPS were resolved. The restrictions were subsequently removed with the adoption of the *RPS Guidebook, Fifth Edition*, which included provisions to streamline the application process by allowing a group of distributed generation facilities to be certified as an aggregated unit. The *RPS Guidebook, Fifth Edition* included language providing that a group of distributed generation facilities that had received benefits from a ratepayer-funded incentive program, participated in a net metering tariff with a Load Serving Entity, or primarily served onsite load “may” apply for RPS certification as an aggregated unit. The *RPS Eligibility Guidebook, Sixth Edition* introduced language that inadvertently required that aggregated units “must” participate in at least one of the three previously restricted categories to qualify for RPS certification. This limitation has been carried forward in each edition of the RPS Guidebook since the *Sixth Edition*.

Based on a review of the *Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Edition* guidebooks, staff believes that the change in language in the *Sixth Edition* was inadvertent and not intended to limit the RPS eligibility of aggregated units. Therefore, staff is proposing that the current language of the *RPS Eligibility Guidebook, Ninth Edition (Revised)* be revised to clarify the eligibility of aggregated units, and allow such units to be certified for the RPS even when the facilities (comprising the aggregated unit) do not fall within one of the three specified categories.

Purpose

To correct the provisions in the *RPS Eligibility Guidebook Ninth Edition (Revised)* that do not allow for aggregated units to be RPS-eligible if they do not meet the Chapter 5, Section C (2)(e) requirements, staff recommends Section C (2)(e) be removed from the *RPS Eligibility Guidebook Ninth Edition (Revised)* as follows:

*An applicant seeking RPS certification of a group of facilities as part of an aggregated unit shall submit an aggregated application using the RPS Online System. Aggregated units are generally treated as a single facility in the RPS program. An application for an aggregated unit will not be approved unless all facilities in the unit are eligible. If the Energy Commission determines that one facility in an approved unit is not RPS-eligible, the applicant shall have **30 days**, once notified, to submit an amended application that removes any ineligible facilities from the aggregated unit, or the entire unit will lose its certification. The aggregated unit shall:*

- a) *Be registered and approved in WREGIS as a single Distributed Generation Aggregation Project, and all facilities that are part of the WREGIS Distributed Generation Aggregation Project are included in the aggregated unit.*
- b) *Be commercially operational.*

- c) *Contain only facilities using the same renewable energy resource.*
- d) *Generate electricity using either wind or solar photovoltaic.*
- e) ~~*Contain only facilities that meet one of the following:*~~
 - ~~1) *Have received benefits from a ratepayer-funded incentive program.*~~
 - ~~2) *Participate in a net metering tariff with an LSE.*~~
 - ~~3) *Primarily serves onsite load.*~~
- f) *Include only facilities meeting all RPS eligibility requirements.*
- g) *Have a total aggregated unit nameplate capacity not exceeding 250 kW for the initial application, allowing growth up to a maximum of 360 kW.*

Aggregated units that have never been represented in an application are assigned a six-digit RPS identification number, consisting of five numerical digits followed by a single-letter suffix of "R." Facilities in the unit will be assigned a five-digit identifier, consisting of four numerical digits followed by a single-letter suffix of "A" for certification so the extended RPS ID number for a facility in an aggregated unit will have the format #####R-####A.

If adopted by the Energy Commission, the above revisions to the RPS certification requirements for aggregated units will be effective upon adoption, but will not be incorporated into the RPS Eligibility Guidebook until the next edition of the *RPS Eligibility Guidebook*.

Public Comment

The Energy Commission encourages public comments on the proposal to clarify the RPS certification requirements for aggregated units.

The Energy Commission will accept oral comments during the Business Meeting. Comments may be limited to three minutes per speaker. Any comments will become part of the public record in this proceeding.

Written comments should be submitted to the Energy Commission's e-commenting online system no later than **5:00 p.m. on July 10, 2017**

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 then hit Enter.
4. Click "Select" to Select a Proceeding.
5. Click "Continue" to Add a Comment.
6. Commenters are required to input their full name, email address, and comment title. Comment title should be "Jane Doe or Company Name Comment re RPS Implementation".

7. 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).
8. Enter the CAPTCHA that is used to prevent spamming on the website. Then click on “Agree & Submit your Comment”.

Written comments will also be accepted before or at the Business Meeting; however, the Energy Commission may not have time to review them before the conclusion of the meeting. 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 may be posted to the Energy Commission’s website for the proceeding. Please note that your written and oral 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 preferred, 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

Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts

The Energy Commission’s Public Adviser’s Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact Alana Mathews, Public Adviser, at PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4489, or toll free at (800) 822-6228.

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Poneh Jones at Poneh.Jones@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4425 at least five days in advance.

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 agenda item, please contact Camille Remy Obad at Camille.Remy-Obad@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-3940.

Remote Attendance

The Business Meeting is broadcast via WebEx, the Energy Commission’s on-line meeting service. To listen to the meeting and view any presentations, please click the following link or paste it into your browser:

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To participate by telephone, please call toll free 1-866-469-3239 on Business Meeting days after 10:01 a.m. (PDT). The pass code for the meeting is "Business Meeting" and the call leader is Jerome Lee. If you plan to speak about a specific item, please give the operator the item number.

David Hochschild
Lead Commissioner

Date: June 30, 2017

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