

DOCKETED

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**Docket 11-RPS-01, SCE's Comments on Renewables Portfolio Standard 2011-2013
Retail Sellers Procurement Verification Draft Staff Report**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

May 26, 2016

California Energy Commission
Docket No. 11-RPS-01
Dockets Office, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5504

Re: Docket No. 11-RPS-01, Southern California Edison Company's Comments on Renewables Portfolio Standard 2011-2013 Retail Sellers Procurement Verification Draft Staff Report

On May 10, 2016, California Energy Commission (“Energy Commission”) Staff released the Renewables Portfolio Standard (“RPS”) 2011-2013 Retail Sellers Procurement Verification Draft Staff Report (“RPS 2011-2013 Retail Sellers Verification Report”). The draft RPS 2011-2013 Retail Sellers Verification Report results for Southern California Edison Company (“SCE”) include 26,509 MWh from the Shepherds Flat North facility that Energy Commission Staff determined is ineligible because the generation was reported in the Interim Tracking System (“ITS”) instead of the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (“WREGIS”).¹ This generation is from an RPS-eligible wind facility under a 20-year RPS power purchase agreement with SCE. The generation meets all RPS eligibility requirements but could not be reported through WREGIS because of a change in Qualified Reporting Entities. Just as the Energy Commission has allowed generation that could not be tracked in WREGIS to be reported through the ITS in other circumstances, generation that could not be tracked in WREGIS due to a change in Qualified Reporting Entities should be allowed to be reported through the ITS. Accordingly, the Energy Commission should find that the 26,509 MWh from the Shepherds Flat North facility is RPS eligible.

If the Energy Commission does not conclude that this generation is RPS eligible in the final RPS 2011-2013 Retail Sellers Verification Report, in the next RPS Eligibility Guidebook, the Energy Commission should establish a process that allows load-serving entities to request that the Energy Commission’s Executive Director grant them permission to report RPS-eligible generation in the ITS in exceptional circumstances, and allow SCE to make a request to report the 26,509 MWh from the Shepherds Flat North facility in the ITS under such process.

A. The Energy Commission Should Find That All of SCE’s Generation from the Shepherds Flat North Facility is RPS Eligible

Energy Commission Staff determined that 26,509 MWh of January and February 2012 generation from the Shepherds Flat North facility is ineligible because the generation was not

¹ RPS 2011-2013 Retail Sellers Verification Report at 18.

reported in WREGIS.² The Shepherds Flat North facility is delivering pursuant to a 20-year RPS power purchase agreement with SCE that started on September 23, 2011. The facility is fully RPS certified, with an RPS eligibility date of July 10, 2007.

Bonneville Power Administration (“BPA”) was the WREGIS Qualified Reporting Entity (“QRE”) for the Shepherds Flat North facility for the vintage periods January and February 2012, when the generation at issue occurred. SCE took over the QRE responsibility starting in the March 2012 vintage period. It was later discovered that incorrect generation totals were uploaded by BPA for vintage periods January 2012 and February 2012, resulting in 26,509 renewable energy credits (“RECs”) not being created in WREGIS. By that time, BPA was not able to make adjustments in WREGIS because the QRE responsibility was already transferred to SCE. Similarly, SCE was not able to make adjustments in WREGIS for those two vintage periods because the earliest vintage period that SCE is eligible to adjust is March 2012. Since SCE had no other way to create those RECs, the additional 26,509 MWh was reported to the Energy Commission using the ITS.

The Energy Commission has allowed the use of the ITS to report RPS-eligible generation when RECs could not be created in WREGIS. For example, the Seventh Edition of the RPS Eligibility Guidebook allowed the use of the ITS for reporting test energy until July 31, 2012 because all test energy could not be reported in WREGIS until that time.³ Additionally, publicly-owned utilities were allowed to use the ITS to report procurement not tracked through WREGIS until 2013 under certain circumstances.⁴ The Energy Commission should also permit load-serving entities to use the ITS to report other RPS-eligible generation that cannot be reported in WREGIS.

The generation at issue from the Shepherds Flat North facility meets all RPS eligibility requirements and was procured on behalf of SCE’s customers under a long-term RPS power purchase agreement. Due to circumstances beyond SCE’s control, the generation could not be reported in WREGIS. The Energy Commission should not leave SCE’s customers with no avenue to obtain RPS verification of this generation. The Energy Commission should allow the 26,509 MWh of January and February 2012 generation from the Shepherds Flat North facility to be reported in the ITS and determine that such generation is RPS eligible.

B. If the Energy Commission Does Not Find the Shepherds Flat North Facility Generation RPS Eligible, It Should Establish a Process That Allows for Requests to Report in the ITS in Exceptional Circumstances

If the Energy Commission does not determine that the 26,509 MWh from the Shepherds Flat North facility is RPS eligible in the final RPS 2011-2013 Retail Sellers Verification Report,

² *Id.*

³ RPS Eligibility Guidebook, Seventh Edition, CEC-300-2013-005-ED7-CMF-REV, at 88 (April 2013).

⁴ RPS Eligibility Guidebook, Eighth Edition, CEC-300-2015-001-ED8-CMF, at 28-29 (June 2015).

the Energy Commission should establish a process that allows load-serving entities to request that the Energy Commission's Executive Director grant them permission to report RPS-eligible generation in the ITS in exceptional circumstances. SCE does not disagree with the general rule that generation must be reported through WREGIS in order to be verified as RPS eligible. However, in exceptional circumstances when it is not possible to report generation through WREGIS, load-serving entity customers should not lose RPS credit for renewable generation that otherwise meets all RPS eligibility requirements. Similar to the process for extensions of RPS certification application deadlines,⁵ the Energy Commission's Executive Director should evaluate whether a load-serving entity is justified in using the ITS and only allow such reporting when it is appropriate based on exceptional circumstances.

SCE urges the Energy Commission to adopt a process that allows for requests to report in the ITS in exceptional circumstances in the next RPS Eligibility Guidebook. If such a process is established, SCE should be permitted to make a request to report the 26,509 MWh from the Shepherds Flat North facility through the ITS.

SCE appreciates the Energy Commission's consideration of SCE's comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 441-3979 regarding any questions or concerns you may have.

Yours truly,

/s/ Catherine Hackney

Catherine Hackney

⁵ *Id.* at 74-76.