



February 17, 2015

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 11-RPS-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Docket No. 11-RPS-01, Southern California Edison Company’s Comments on California Energy Commission Staff Draft Renewables Portfolio Standard Eligibility Guidebook, Eighth Edition

On January 16, 2015, California Energy Commission (“Energy Commission”) staff distributed a notice requesting comments on the Staff Draft Renewables Portfolio Standard (“RPS”) Eligibility Guidebook, Eighth Edition (“Draft RPS Guidebook”). Southern California Edison Company (“SCE”) generally supports the Draft RPS Eligibility Guidebook, and appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Energy Commission’s collaborative process for refining the guidebook through these written comments.

SCE addresses the following topics below:

- The Energy Commission should remove the word “steam” from the description of prime generating equipment for repowered geothermal facilities.
- The Energy Commission should clarify that deadlines to certify facilities within 90 days of commencing commercial operations can be waived or extended.
- The Energy Commission should only require applicants to use a pro rata approach approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) under the FERC Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit if applicable.
- The Energy Commission should not require hard copy submissions for signature purposes, and should instead allow electronic signatures when appropriate.

A. The Energy Commission Should Remove “Steam” from the Description of Geothermal Prime Generating Equipment

As currently written, the Draft RPS Eligibility Guidebook discusses the RPS certification of repowered facilities and describes the prime generating equipment of each technology.¹ The prime generating equipment description of geothermal resources lists a “steam” turbine and other

¹ See Draft RPS Eligibility Guidebook at 36.

components associated with the turbine.

SCE recommends the Energy Commission remove the word “steam” from the Draft RPS Guidebook’s description of geothermal prime generating equipment to prevent this language from precluding geothermal turbines that use working fluids other than steam, such as turbines powered by iso-butane, iso-pentane, or other refrigerants such as R-134 or ammonia. SCE provides a suggested redline edit at the end of this document.

B. The Energy Commission Should Clarify that Deadlines to Certify Facilities Within 90 Days of Commencing Commercial Operations Can be Waived or Extended

The Draft RPS Eligibility Guidebook discusses facility eligibility date, and explains that certification applications submitted after 90 days of commencing commercial operations will receive an eligibility date that coincides with the date the certification application is submitted to the Energy Commission.² The Energy Commission should add clarifying language explaining that a facility represented in a certification application submitted more than 90 days after the facility commenced commercial operations can receive an extension or waiver of its original deadline to certify subject to the Energy Commission’s Extensions of Certification Application Deadlines Process outlined in Section D, Special Provisions of the Draft RPS Guidebook.³ This extension or waiver process is an important administrative improvement to the RPS Eligibility Guidebook, and should be reflected in this section appropriately. SCE provides suggested additions in redline at the end of this document.

C. The Energy Commission Should Only Require Applicants to Use a Pro Rata Approach Approved by FERC Under the FERC Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit if Applicable

The Draft RPS Eligibility Guidebook states that any applicant for a rated hydroelectric facility improvement must demonstrate, among other items, that the proposed pro rata approach being used to calculate the facility’s incremental generation has been approved by FERC under the FERC Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit, pursuant to the Energy Policy Act (2005).⁴ Because not all facilities receive FERC Renewable Energy Production Tax Credits, the Energy Commission should insert the words “if applicable” before this requirement. SCE provides suggested additions in redline at the end of this document.

D. The Energy Commission Should Not Require Hard Copy Submissions for Signature Purposes, and Should Instead Allow Electronic Signatures When Appropriate

As currently written, the Draft RPS Eligibility Guidebook requires that one of three criteria (delivery either in person, by mail or electronic mail) are satisfied in order to meet the

² See *id.* at 45.

³ See *id.* at 71-73.

⁴ See *id.* at 39-40.

specified deadlines within the guidebook.⁵ SCE agrees that submissions should meet specified deadlines if one of these criteria is met. Indeed, SCE recommends that same requirement be applied to all submissions made pursuant to the RPS Eligibility Guidebook, including applications for RPS certification. As Energy Commission staff are aware, a number of applicants for RPS certification have had issues meeting the current requirement to submit applications by hard copy and in electronic format. This could be easily resolved by clarifying that the new submission criteria also apply to RPS certifications. SCE provides suggested edits in redline at the end of this document.

SCE appreciates the Energy Commission's consideration of SCE's comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 441-2369 regarding any questions or concerns you may have.

Yours truly,

/s/ Manuel Alvarez

Manuel Alvarez

⁵ See *id* at 67-68.

SCE's Proposed Edits to the Draft RPS Guidebook

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1. Prime Generating Equipment

All prime generating equipment at the facility shall be replaced with new equipment for the facility. The prime generating equipment for each renewable resource is defined as follows:

- a) Wind: the wind turbine, including the electricity generator, gearbox (if any), nacelle, and blades.
- b) Biomass: the boiler, electricity generator, and the steam turbine.
- c) Geothermal: the electricity generator and the ~~steam~~-turbine, including the turbine rotors, shaft, stationary blades, and any gear assemblies.
- d) Small and conduit hydroelectric: the electricity generator, turbine, and structures directly supporting the turbine.
- e) Solid waste conversion: the gasifier (gasifying equipment), the electricity generator, and either the internal combustion engine or combustion turbine, as applicable.
- f) Biomethane: the electricity generator and either the internal combustion engine or combustion turbine, as applicable.
- g) Solar:
 - 1) Solar thermal: the electricity generator, steam turbine, and solar boiler.
 - 2) Solar Photovoltaic: the photovoltaic panel(s).

A facility that does not use any of the prime generating equipment listed above shall replace the equivalent equipment or the appropriate prime generating equipment for that technology type.

a. Eligibility Date

The eligibility date for a facility represented in a certification application that is submitted within **90 days** of commencing commercial operation is the first date upon which the applicant can demonstrate that all the following are true:

- 1) Operations of the facility are consistent with those described in the certification application. Operations for testing purposes may comply with this requirement.
- 2) The facility met the requirements of the *RPS Guidebook* in place at the time electricity was generated.
- 3) Generation from the facility is tracked in WREGIS, or retroactive WREGIS Certificates can be created for the generation. (See III.A.1.a: Creation or Retroactive Renewable Energy Credits in WREGIS.)

Facilities represented in a certification application submitted after 90 days of commencing commercial operations will receive an eligibility date that coincides with the date the certification application is submitted to the Energy Commission. Facilities represented in a certification application submitted after 90 days of commencing commercial operations can receive an extension or waiver of their original deadline to certify subject to the Energy Commission's Extensions of Certification Application Deadlines Process outlined in Section D, Special Provisions of this Eighth Edition of the RPS Eligibility Guidebook.

3. Rated Facility Improvement

An applicant for hydroelectric facilities may use a pro rata approach to determine the incremental generation of a facility. To do so, the applicant must demonstrate that all of the following are true, and provide supporting documentation as necessary:

- a) The facility has conducted before and after testing over the entire load range of the facility to determine the portion of the facility output that is incremental to the original generation output and based on the changes to the facility. Results of these tests shall be provided to the Energy Commission.
 - b) If applicable, ~~t~~he proposed pro rata approach has been approved by FERC under the FERC Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit, pursuant to the Energy Policy Act (2005).
 - c) The proposed method is superior to the methods discussed above and is the most appropriate method for the specific facility.
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IV. RPS Certification

The Energy Commission offers two types of RPS certification:

- 1) Certification: the facility has commenced commercial operations using an eligible renewable energy resource and complies with all applicable requirements of the *RPS Guidebook* in place when the application is submitted.
- 2) Precertification: the facility has not commenced commercial operations or is not yet using an eligible renewable energy resource in compliance with this guidebook. The applicant is seeking an initial assessment on whether planned operations of the facility could comply with applicable requirements of the *RPS Guidebook* in place when the application is submitted. **The Energy Commission's approval of a facility for precertification does not and cannot guarantee that a facility will be eligible for certification if and when the facility commences commercial operations.**

All applications will be evaluated under the *RPS Guidebook* in place at the time a completed application is submitted to the Energy Commission. Electricity generation from a facility cannot be counted toward meeting an LSE's RPS procurement requirements unless the facility is first certified by the Energy Commission.

~~An original, signed application shall be submitted in hard copy to the Energy Commission at:~~ All applications and supplemental forms may be submitted either by mail, in person or e-mail in accordance with Section VII(A)(5) of the Guidebook. If by mail or in person applications shall be delivered to:

California Energy Commission
Attn: RPS Certification
1516 9th Street, MS-45
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

~~An additional unsigned copy of the application shall be submitted electronically in Microsoft® Excel format. The electronic version shall be sent by e-mail to the Energy Commission at RPSTrack@energy.ca.gov. Applications may also be sent by email to the Energy Commission at RPSTrack@energy.ca.gov in Microsoft® Excel format, using the appropriate file name for the attachment and in the e-mail subject line as indicated on the form.~~

~~Both the hard copy and electronic version of the~~ The application shall be complete when submitted in accordance with Section VII(A)(5) of the Guidebook. For additional information on the submission and complete versions of the required forms, see Appendix A: RPS Certification Forms. ~~Supplemental documentation may be submitted in hard copy or electronically.~~ Table 4 summarizes the types of certification and the necessary forms for each type including due dates.

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Appendix A: RPS Certification Forms

Submission Information ~~An original, signed application shall be submitted in hard copy to the Energy Commission at:~~

~~California Energy Commission
Attn: RPS Certification
1516 9th Street, MS 45
Sacramento, CA 95814 5512~~

~~An additional unsigned copy of the application shall be submitted electronically in Microsoft® Excel format, using the appropriate file name for the attachment and in the e-mail subject line as indicated on the form. The electronic version shall be sent by email to the Energy Commission at RPSTrack@energy.ca.gov. Both the hard copy and electronic version of the application shall be complete when submitted.~~

All applications and supplemental forms may be submitted either by mail, in person or e-mail in accordance with Section VII(A)(5) of the Guidebook. If by mail or in person applications shall be delivered to:

~~California Energy Commission
Attn: RPS Certification
1516 9th Street, MS 45
Sacramento, CA 95814 5512~~

Applications may also be sent by email to the Energy Commission at RPSTrack@energy.ca.gov in Microsoft® Excel format, using the appropriate file name for the attachment and in the e-mail subject line as indicated on the form

~~The Energy Commission will not begin processing any application for certification or precertification until it received both an unsigned electronic copy of the application in Microsoft® Excel format and a signed application as specified above. The applicant should ensure that both the electronic file and the signed form are sent to the Energy Commission within a reasonable timeframe of each other.~~

In addition, the Energy Commission may request for a site map, converted in a PDF file or saved in a .kmz file (Google Earth), clearly identifying the location of the solar or wind facility as well as the GPS coordinates when applying for a precertification or certification.
