



Agenda Date: 7/25/18
Agenda Item: 8A

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

CLEAN ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE STATE ENERGY PROGRAM)
FOR PROGRAM YEAR JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019)
ORDER)
DOCKET NO. QO18070708)

Parties of Record:

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Michael Ambrosio, TRC Energy Solutions

BY THE BOARD:

By this Order, the Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) considers the New Jersey Office of Clean Energy (“OCE” or “Staff”) 2018–2019 State Energy Program (“SEP”) Plan for submission to the United States Department of Energy (“USDOE”). Staff seeks Board approval of the proposed 2018-2019 SEP Plan at a budget level \$1,677,116.94. The budget is comprised of \$1,096,140.00 in new federal SEP funds allocated by USDOE, \$219,228.00 in new state matching funds, and carry over in the amount of \$361,748.94.

By this Order, the Board also considers Staff’s recommendation to allocate \$200,000 in SEP funding to supplement the New Jersey Department of Environment Protection’s (“NJDEP”) electric vehicle workplace charging program entitled “It Pays to Plug In.”

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURE HISTORY

The SEP was established in 1996 by consolidating two existing programs: (1) the State Energy Conservation Program (“SECP”) and (2) the Institutional Conservation Program (“ICP”). 61 Fed. Reg. 35,890 (July 8, 1996). Both the SECP and ICP came about during the energy crisis of the early 1970s when there was an increase in the United States’ dependence on foreign oil. Congress responded with legislation establishing a broad range of conservation programs, supporting the development of new and more efficient sources of energy, and requiring USDOE to lead and administer the conservation effort. The SECP was established under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, Pub. L. No. 94-163, 89 Stat. 901, to address energy conservation. The SECP provided funding to the states for a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy activities. 61 Fed. Reg. 35,890 (July 8, 1996). The ICP provided schools and hospitals with a technical analysis of their buildings and identified the potential savings from

proposed energy conservations measures. Ibid. In creating the SEP, the USDOE combined the SECP and ICP to make it easier for states to apply for grants, and to make it more efficient for both the USDOE and the states to manage the grants. Id. at 35,891. Thus, the USDOE currently provides federal financial assistance and technical support to the states for energy programs by means of the SEP. 10 C.F.R. § 420 et seq. States must comply with the USDOE rules governing these financial awards.

To be eligible, a state must annually submit an application to the USDOE, filed this year on May 9, 2018, executed by the state's Governor or his/her designee. The USDOE must approve or disapprove funding within sixty (60) days from the date of a timely filed application. The USDOE may request, if not necessary, additional documents or an amended state plan reflecting changes in the activities the state is planning to undertake for the fiscal year concerned.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

New Jersey has allocated federal monies each year in support of its USDOE-approved State Plans. In accordance with the formula provided in 10 C.F.R § 420.11, New Jersey's 2018–2019 SEP allocation is \$1,096,140.00. Pursuant to USDOE regulations, New Jersey is required to match its SEP allocation either through cash, in-kind contributions, or both, in an amount totaling not less than twenty percent (20%) of the federal allocation. See 10 C.F.R. § 420.12. Therefore, New Jersey's required match obligation is \$219,228.00. Altogether, the proposed 2018–2019 SEP Plan consists of a total budget of \$1,677,116.94. The budget is comprised of \$1,096,140.00 in new federal SEP funds allocated by USDOE, \$219,228.00 in new state matching funds, and carry over in the amount of \$361,748.94. Each state can propose how it intends to use its allocated share of funds to address both the national criteria and specific environmental conditions within that state. Staff proposes that New Jersey's twenty percent (20%) match for these federal funds come from Staff's salaries for time spent managing the grant and from New Jersey Clean Energy Program ("NJCEP") and NJDEP administrative costs.

The SEP Plan, as proposed, is partially a continuation of the Market Title that was approved in 2011–2012, 2012–2013, 2013–2014, 2014–2015, 2015–2016, 2016–2017, and 2017–2018 SEP Plans. The Market Title, "Energy Efficiency Program for Non-Investor Owned Utility ("non-IOU") Customers," expands the eligibility of the customers served by the NJCEP. Specifically, the Market Title expands the following Clean Energy Programs: Home Performance with Energy Star ("HPwES"), Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning ("HVAC"), and Direct Install ("DI"), to address both the residential and commercial/industrial customers who do not contribute to the Societal Benefits Charge ("SBC") and are therefore not eligible to participate in the NJCEP. The Market Title is designed to further State and federal energy conservation and efficiency goals. In particular, the SEP Plan, will supplement or expand these programs to allow non-IOU electric customers, oil customers, and propane customers to achieve increased efficiencies using the SEP as a funding mechanism and for the State to realize the additional environmental benefits of more energy efficient, fossil-fueled equipment.

The 2018–2019 SEP Plan proposes programs, as described below, that will focus primarily on the specific customers who do not contribute to the SBC, such as those who receive their electricity from a municipal electric utility or use oil or propane. The incentives provided for these customers will be identical to those provided by the NJCEP for similar equipment. These programs will include the following:

- **HPwES:** The HPwES program recruits and trains Building Performance Institute (“BPI”) certified and accredited contractors to install energy efficiency measures in existing homes. The program includes up to \$4,000 in financial incentives now until June 30, 2019. Eligible customers may also qualify for 0% interest financing (up to \$10,000 with a 7-year maximum term) or 4.99% financing (up to \$15,000 with a 10-year maximum term) to help pay for the energy-efficient upgrades, if they do not contribute to the SBC and are not eligible to participate in the Clean Energy Program’s existing HPwES Program.
- **HVAC:** The HVAC program promotes the purchase of efficient home heating, cooling, and water heating equipment and quality installation of such equipment. Its long-term goal is to make the high quality installation of high-efficiency residential HVAC equipment the norm in the New Jersey market. COOL Advantage promotes the installation of new, energy efficient, residential, central, electric air conditioners and heat pumps. WARM Advantage promotes energy efficient furnaces and boilers and water heaters for use in residential buildings. The funding rebates customers who do not contribute to the SBC and are not eligible to participate in the NJCEPS existing HVAC Program.
- **DI:** The Direct Install program identifies cost-effective energy efficiency opportunities and provides incentives and direct installation of efficiency measures, such as lighting, controls, refrigeration, HVAC, and motors. The funding rebates customers who do not contribute to the SBC and are not eligible to participate in the NJCEPs existing Direct Install Program.

In addition to the programs mentioned above, this year the SEP Plan will allocate \$200,000 of its new SEP funds to NJDEP for its electric vehicle workplace charging program entitled “It Pays to Plug In.” The BPU will work with NJDEP to continue to implement the program. The program will provide grants to employers to offset the cost of purchasing and installing electric vehicle level 2 charging stations. This program is designed to encourage employees to purchase and drive electric vehicles to work.

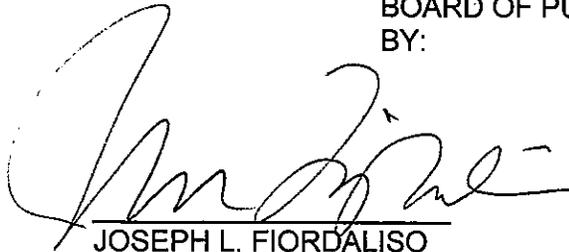
FINDINGS

The Board **HEREBY FINDS** that the 2018–2019 SEP Plan, as detailed above, will contribute to conservation of energy, reduce the rate of growth of energy demand, reduce dependence on propane oil, and advance State and federal energy conservation and efficiency goals. The Board **FURTHER FINDS** that the SEP Plan, as proposed, will allow customers who do not contribute to the SBC to participate in programs that further State and federal conservation and energy efficiency goals, and through NJDEP’s “It Pays to Plug In” program will provide grants to employers to offset the cost of purchasing and installing electric vehicle level 2 charging stations. The Board **HEREBY APPROVES** the SEP budget of \$1,677,116.94 and **HEREBY DIRECTS** Staff to take appropriate measures to implement such programs subject to and consistent with USDOE approval of the plan. Based upon the foregoing recommendations of Staff, the Board **FURTHER APPROVES** the 2018–2019 SEP Plan as proposed above and **HEREBY AUTHORIZES** the President of the Board to sign the necessary documents to submit as part of the complete 2019–2018 SEP Plan to the USDOE for approval.

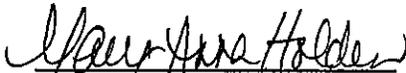
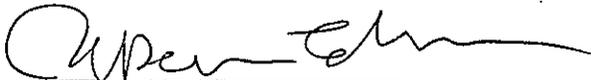
The Order shall be effective August 4, 2018.

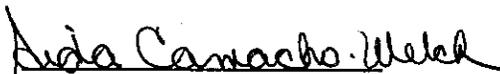
DATED: 7/25/18

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COMMISSIONER
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ATTEST: 
AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

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DOCKET NO. QO18070708**

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