



Agenda Date: 7/15/20
Agenda Item: 8E

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

CLEAN ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF PROVIDING EXTENSIONS TO)
NEW JERSEY'S CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM)
APPLICATIONS IN PROGRESS DELAYED BY COVID-)
19) DOCKET NO. QO20060448

Party of Record:

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") through its New Jersey Clean Energy Program ("NJCEP") includes several Energy Efficiency ("EE") Programs targeting the commercial and industrial ("C&I") market segments. Eligible applicants may receive rebates for a portion of the cost for installing energy efficient technologies such as lighting, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning upgrades, and other energy conservation measures. Incentives are also available for projects involving Distributed Energy Resources. NJCEP also includes the residential Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program ("HPwES"), which provides incentives to homeowners that implement comprehensive energy efficiency measures in their homes. TRC Environmental Corporation ("TRC") is the Program Manager engaged by the Board to manage the NJCEP C&I and residential programs; it also serves as the NJCEP Program Administrator.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many NJCEP customers with applications in progress are likely to face significant difficulties in meeting project completion deadlines. In general, each NJCEP program has deadlines for applicants to perform certain tasks such as submitting required paperwork, installing the incented measures, or providing post-installation performance data. TRC notes that due to required construction moratoriums, safety concerns, and other pandemic-related issues, there will likely be a much higher than usual volume of applicants seeking extensions of these deadlines. The potential exists for dozens, if not hundreds, of requests to come in, which would overwhelm both Staff and TRC. Given the widespread nature of the pandemic and its ubiquitous impact on NJCEP participants, Staff believes that a blanket extension of all deadlines is warranted. Such an extension will be more equitably levied and much less administratively burdensome than considering extension requests on a case-by-case basis.

C&I Applications

Staff recommends granting an automatic and immediate six-month extension to all active C&I program applications. Active applications are applications relating to projects that have not been cancelled or rejected, have not yet received final payments, or have not been submitted to the BPU for a waiver request. This six-month extension would apply to the following NJCEP programs:

- Local Government Energy Audit;
- Large Energy Users Program;
- Pay for Performance;
- Combined Heat & Power/Fuel Cell Program;
- Direct Install;
- Customer Tailored Energy Efficiency Pilot; and
- SmartStart.

Not all active applications will necessarily require this additional time, but granting this extension to all active applications will eliminate the need for numerous individual extension requests. Staff also recommends that the Board order that this extension not count towards the total of four six-month extensions C&I applicants may request from TRC and Board Staff, as this proposed extension results from unforeseen circumstances that fall outside the bounds of normal operating procedures.

Residential Applications

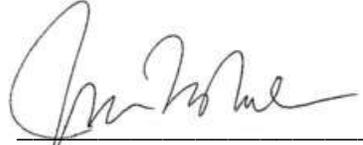
Staff recommends granting a similar extension to HPwES projects in “claimed” status. When a HPwES applicant signs a contract committing to schedule comprehensive home energy efficiency upgrades, the project enters “claimed” status. This claimed status has a 120-day commitment expiration and no approved extension policy. HPwES is administered in such a way that the automatic extension being recommended for C&I projects is not necessary. Staff recommends that the Board allow contractors that are nearing the 120-day commitment expiration because of COVID-19 to request a six-month extension from TRC. TRC has the capability to review these requests quickly and grant extensions as needed.

Based on its review of Staff’s recommendation, and in light of unavoidable delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board **HEREBY APPROVES** Staff’s recommendation to grant an immediate six-month extension to all active C&I program applications as defined above. The Board **FURTHER ORDERS** that HPwES contractors that have experienced delays due to COVID-19 for a project in “claimed” status may request an extension up to six-months from TRC and **AUTHORIZES** TRC to grant such an extension for these projects.

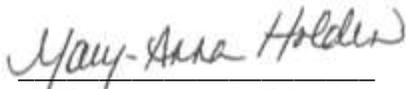
The effective date of this Order is July 25, 2020.

DATED: July 15, 2020

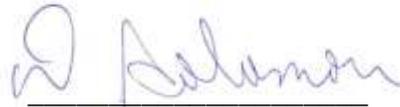
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



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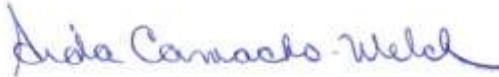


UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
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ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

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