



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/

ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF)	DECISION AND ORDER
ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY CONCERNING)	SETTING ADMINISTRATIVE
THE SETTING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE AND)	FEE
THE REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE)	
("RGGI") RECOVERY CHARGE FOR 2021)	
ASSOCIATED WITH ITS SOLAR RENEWABLE)	
ENERGY CERTIFICATE ("SREC II") PROGRAM)	DOCKET NO. ER20100691

Parties of Record:

Margaret Comes, Esq., for Rockland Electric Company
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On October 30, 2020, Rockland Electric Company ("RECO" or "Company") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") seeking authority to maintain the Administrative Fee and Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Surcharge ("RGGI Surcharge") associated with the Company's Solar Renewable Energy Certificate ("SREC") Program ("SREC II Program") for calendar year 2021 ("October 2020 Petition"). By this Decision and Order, the Board considers the Company's request to maintain the Administrative Fee for calendar year 2021.

Background and Procedural History

By Order dated August 7, 2008, the Board directed RECO to file with the Board a solar financing plan by January 31, 2009.¹ RECO filed its SREC-based financing program on February 2, 2009 in Docket No. EO09020097.

¹ In re the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, BPU Docket No. EO06100744, Order dated August 7, 2008.

By Order dated July 31, 2009, the Board authorized the Company to implement an SREC financing program.² The costs for the SREC financing program were to be charged through a component of the Company's existing RGGI Surcharge.

On November 8, 2011, the Board directed the Office of Clean Energy to initiate an assessment of New Jersey's renewable energy programs as well as addressing issues raised by the Solar Energy Advancement and Fair Competition Act (L. 2009, c. 289), and the 2011 Energy Master Plan. On May 23, 2012, the Board issued an Order directing RECO "to file within, [sic] 5 business days of service of this Order, a notice of their intention to participate or not to participate in the Extended Electric Distribution Company SREC Programs consistent with Staff's recommendations adopted by the Board herein." (See Board Order in BPU Docket No. EO11050311V). On September 5, 2012, RECO submitted a petition for Board approval of the Company's SREC II Program. By Order dated December 18, 2013, the Board authorized RECO to offer an SREC II Program with a total program size of up to 4.5 MW.³ The December 2013 Order set the Administrative Fee for SREC II Program participants at \$30.00 per SREC and further ordered that after five (5) years there would be a true-up of administrative costs and program participant fees, and the program participant fees would be adjusted on a prospective basis beginning January 1, 2019. Additionally, the December 2013 Order directed RECO to "assess Application Fees, Assignment and Administrative Fees (collectively, "Program Participant Fees") to Program Participants."

By Order dated December 20, 2019, the Board authorized RECO to maintain the Company's SREC II Administrative Fee at the Board's previously approved rate of \$30.00 for calendar years 2019 and 2020.⁴

October 2020 Petition

In the October 2020 Petition, RECO proposed a modification to the cost recovery mechanism, citing lower than expected participation in the program. According to RECO, using the cost recovery provisions from the December 2013 Order, the Company would have to increase the Administrative Fee from \$30.00 to \$45.28 per SREC. RECO stated that an increase of this magnitude from the current Administrative Fee could cause the SREC II Program to fail, as Program Participants would likely seek to terminate their participation in the program. Accordingly, RECO requested authorization to carry forward unrecovered administrative fee balances for recovery in future annual periods and maintain the fee at \$30.00 for calendar year 2021. Additionally, RECO sought approval to maintain its RGGI Surcharge for the recovery of the SREC II Program Direct Costs at \$0.000000 per kWh.

² In re the Verified Petition of Rockland Electric Company Concerning a Proposal for an SREC-Based Program Under N.J.S.A 48:3-98.1, BPU Docket No. EO09020097, Order dated July 31, 2009.

³ In re the Matter of the Verified Petition of Rockland Electric Company for Approval to Implement an Extended Solar Renewable Energy Certificate-Based Financing Program Pursuant to NJ.S.A. 48: 3-98.1 (SREC II Program), BPU Docket No. EO13020118, Order dated December 18, 2013 ("December 2013 Order").

⁴ In re the Matter of the Verified Petition of Rockland Electric Company Concerning the Setting of the Administrative Fee and The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Recovery Charge ("Rider RGGI") for 2019 Associated with Its Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC II) Program, BPU Docket No. ER19020156, Order dated December 20, 2019.

Since the October 2020 Petition did not propose an increase in rates, public hearings were not required or held in this matter.

DISCUSSION AND FINDING

The Board reviewed the record in this matter to date, including the October 2020 Petition. The parties are in the process of reviewing the October 2020 Petition and its proposed cost recovery mechanism modification which will not be completed prior to the impending increase in the Administrative Fee otherwise required by the December 2013 Order. Accordingly, the Board believes it is appropriate to maintain the Administrative Fee for the SREC II Program for the 2021 calendar year at its current level.

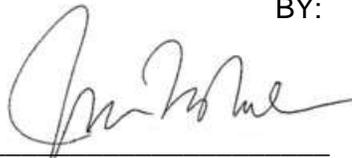
The Board **HEREBY APPROVES** the continuation of the SREC II Administrative Fee at the Board's previously approved rate of \$30.00 for calendar year 2021. The Board notes that the parties will continue to review all other matters concerning the October 2020 Petition.

The Company's costs, including those related to the program described above, remain subject to audit by the Board. This Decision and Order shall not preclude or prohibit the Board from taking any actions determined to be appropriate as a result of any such audit.

The effective date of this Order is December 26, 2020.

DATED: December 16, 2020

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

**IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY
CONCERNING THE SETTING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE AND THE REGIONAL
GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE (“RGGI”) RECOVERY CHARGE FOR 2021 ASSOCIATED
WITH ITS SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (“SREC II”) PROGRAM
DOCKET NO. ER20100691**

SERVICE LIST

Board of Public Utilities

Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary of the Board
board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

General Counsel’s Office

Heather Weisband, Senior Counsel
heather.weisband@bpu.nj.gov

Division of Energy

Stacy Peterson, Director
stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov

Paul Lupo
paul.lupo@bpu.nj.gov

Division of Rate Counsel

140 East Front Street, 4th Floor
Post Office Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director
sbrand@rpa.nj.gov

Brian O. Lipman, Litigation Manager
blipman@rpa.nj.gov

Felicia Thomas-Friel, Esq.
Managing Attorney
ftthomas@rpa.nj.gov

Sarah Steindel, Esq.
ssteinde@rpa.nj.gov

Shelly, Massey, Paralegal
smassey@rpa.nj.gov

Division of Law

25 Market Street
Post Office Box 112
Trenton, NJ 08625-0112

Darren Eppley, DAG
darren.eppley@law.njoag.gov

Pamela Owen, DAG
pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov

Michael Beck, DAG
michael.beck@law.njoag.gov

Meliha Arnautovic, DAG
meliha.arnautovic@law.njoag.gov

Rockland Electric Company

4 Irving Place -26th Fl.
New York, NY 10003

John Carley, Esq.
jcarley@coned.com

Margaret Comes, Esq.
comesm@coned.com