







Christine Guhl-Sadovy President

Dr. Zenon Christodoulou Marian Abdou Michael Bange Commissioners

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REMOTE NET METERING APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS PURSUANT TO L. 2023, C. 190

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Docket No. QO24070554

Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBPU" or "Board") invites all interested parties and members of the public to provide written responses to the Request for Information ("RFI") contained in this Notice on the Remote Net Metering ("RNM") application form and process.

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 23, 2018, Governor Murphy signed the Clean Energy Act of 2018, L. 2018, c. 23 ("CEA") into law. Among other mandates, the CEA directs the Board to "establish an application and approval process for remote net metered solar energy projects serving public entities as receiving customers" within one hundred and twenty days of enactment. N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.12(a). On September 17, 2018, Staff proposed, and the Board approved, a RNM application and approval process.1 The RNM Order covered the following elements of the application and approval process: RNM eligibility; the definition of a Public Entity, Host Customer, Credit Receiving Customer, and Total Average Usage: the determination of maximum capacity of the solar electric generation facility; the value of an RNM "Credit"; and the steps of the application process.

On June 9, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law the Solar Act of 2021 (hereafter "Solar Act").2 The Solar Act directed the Board to facilitate the development of 3,750 MW of solar by 2026 by establishing a new program for incentivizing solar in New Jersey through the mechanism of Solar Renewable Energy Certificates ("SREC-IIs"). SREC-IIs represent the value of the environmental attributes produced by the solar electric power generation facility. The Solar Act directs the Board to create both a solar facilities program for smaller projects, with administratively set incentive values, and a solicitation process for awarding contracts for grid supply solar facilities and net metered solar facilities greater than 5 MW.

The Board took a major step forward to implementing the Solar Act on July 28, 2021, voting unanimously to implement the Clean Energy Act of 2018 (P.L. 2018, c. 17) and the Solar Act by creating the Successor Solar Incentive ("SuSI") Program.³ The SuSI Program is divided into the Administratively Determined Incentive ("ADI") and Competitive Solar Incentive Programs.

¹ <u>I/M/O the Establishment of a Remote Net Metering Application and Approval Process Pursuant</u> to The Clean Energy Act of 2018, BPU Docket No. QO18070697, Order dated September 17, 2018 ("RNM Order").

² L. 2021, c. 169.

³ In re a Solar Successor Incentive Program Pursuant to P.L. 2018, c.17, BPU Docket No. QO20020184, Order dated July 28, 2021.

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On December 21, 2023, Governor Murphy signed P.L. 2023, c. 190, an Act concerning Remote Net Metering ("Act"), which significantly modified the existing RNM program. The modifications made by the Act affect the eligibility requirements and the sizing methodology for RNM facilities and necessitate changes to the application and approval process.

The Act also amends N.J.S.A. 48:3-116, which requires the Board to establish an incentive program for solar facilities less than 5 MW with targets for various market segments and which the Board implemented in establishing the ADI program. Pursuant to the Act, RNM facilities up to 5 MWdc shall receive incentives through the ADI program. The Act establishes a target of providing SREC-IIs to 50 MW per year of RNM facilities for each of the five years following the establishment of the SREC-II program. On May 22, 2024, the Board established an RNM market segment in the ADI Program and allocated 50 MW as required by the Act.

Staff seeks input on the following questions:

- 1. The Act provides that an RNM facility may be located "on any suitable private property" in the same EDC service territory as the solar facility.
 - Please suggest criteria which could be used to determine the suitability of a location for a solar project.
- 2. The Act specifically calls out certain types of sites rooftops, parking lots, brownfields, and properly closed sanitary landfill facilities.
 - To the extent that the identification of these types of sites indicates a legislative preference for these sites, how should this preference be reflected in program implementation?
- 3. Staff defines the "Total Aggregate Electric Usage" as the sum of usage across all host account numbers.
 - Please explain any alternative methodology for calculating "Total Aggregate Electric Usage" as used in the Act to determine the maximum generating capacity of the RNM solar facility in megawatts.
- 4. The Act provides that an electric public utility shall be entitled to full and timely cost recovery, consistent with the Community Solar Energy Program ("CSEP") provisions.
 - To what extent, if any, does the EDC RNM billing and crediting process need to be modified to align with CSEP per the Act?
- 5. The Act specifies that the calculation of the credit as it applies to remote net metering must be modeled after the CSEP rules.
 - Please comment on the applicability of the calculation of the billing credit that is used in CSEP to RNM.

⁴ N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.12. -116.

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- 6. The original RNM application and approval process stated that no more than ten receiving accounts may be party to an Agreement and not less than 10% of the solar electric generating facility output may be allocated to an individual receiving account.
 - Please comment on the utility of these limitations in the new application and approval process.
- 7. Please provide any additional comments on the RNM application and process.

COMMENTS

All public comments should be filed under Docket No. QO24070554.

The deadline for comments on this matter is 5 p.m. on August 27, 2024.

Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's Public Document Search. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the "Post Comments" button on the Board's Public Document Search tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain rules requiring paper submissions have been temporarily waived. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board's e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board. Please include "Confidential Information" in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board's webpage https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/.

E-mailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:

Sherri L. Golden Secretary of the Board 44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor PO Box 350

Trenton, NJ 08625-0350 Phone: 609-292-1599

Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Board Staff looks forward to receiving and reviewing your responses.

Sherri L. Golden

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Secretary of the Board

Dated: August 13, 2024

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Remote Net Metering & Public Entity Certification Application

Revised Pursuant to P.L. 2023. c. 190

The Act signed by Governor Murphy on December 21, 2023 requires the Board to "establish a remote net metering application process to approve remote net metered solar energy projects and certify public entities to act as receiving customers for remote net metering generating capacity."

The process shall be modeled after the relevant rules and regulations adopted by the Board for the community solar energy program pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.11), including, but not limited to, the calculation of the value of the net metering credit. An electric public utility shall be entitled to full and timely cost recovery, including the full value of public remote net metering credits provided to customers and billing system investments, associated with public remote net metering consistent with the Community Solar provisions pursuant to subsection e. of section 5 of P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.11).

A remote net metered solar energy project shall:

- (1) have a capacity up to five megawatts, as measured in direct current;
- (2) exclusively serve public entities certified by the Board to act as receiving customers and located within the same electric distribution company service territory as the project;
- (3) be located on any property owned, licensed, or leased by any public entity or on any suitable private property, including, but not limited to, rooftops of commercial buildings, parking lots, brownfields for which a final remediation document has been issued, or properly closed sanitary landfill facilities;
- (4) not be sited on:
- (a) land preserved under the Green Acres Program;
- (b) land designated as freshwater wetlands as defined pursuant to P.L.1987, c.156 (C.13:9B-1 et seq.), or coastal wetlands as defined pursuant to P.L.1970, c.272 (C.13:9A-1 et seq.);
- (c) forested lands, as defined by the Board in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection: or
- d) prime agricultural soils and soils of Statewide importance, as identified by the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, which are located in Agricultural Development Areas certified by the State Agricultural Development Committee;
- (5) have a facility size calculated based upon the total aggregate electricity usage of the receiving public entity customer utility accounts to be served by the project, based on the total usage of each proposed customer account over the previous twelve months; and
- (6) be metered separately.

This form must be submitted by a representative of a Public Entity Receiving Customer or Customers ("Receiving Customer(s)") to the Electric Distribution Company ("EDC") serving the Receiving Customer(s) and be accompanied by an application to interconnect a solar electric generation facility with the EDC (Interconnection Application/Agreement – Part 1). The representative submitting the application





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may or may not be the solar project developer. The solar project must be located within the service territory of the EDC providing electricity service to the Receiving Customer(s).

I. Project Representativ	<u>ve</u>		
Contact Person:		_	
Affiliation (Company or F	Public Entity Name):		
Telephone Number:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Email Address:			
II. Project Solar Develo	p per n, and if different than abo	ve).	
·	me):		
Telephone Number:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Email Address:			
III. Project Description			
Property Owner:			
Contact Person (if know	n, and if different than abo	ve):	
Affiliation (Company Nar	me):		
Telephone Number:			
Installation Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	

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www.nj.gov/bpu/	
EDC Territory:	
Solar Capacity (kWdc)	

Number of Public Entity Receiving Customer Accounts (listed in Addendum B):

Total Aggregate Electricity Usage of Receiving Customer Accounts:_____

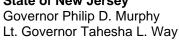
Number of Public Entity Receiving Customers:

By this application, the project representative and each Receiving Customer asserts they have read, understand and are in compliance with the Remote Net Energy Metering statute (P.L. 2023, c. 190) and any subsequent tariff or Rider established for this purpose, and; that the information provided above and attached to the end of this application is correct to the best of their knowledge.

Project Representative Name	
Authorized Signature	
Name (Typed or Printed)	
Date	

ADDENDUM B requires an authorized signature from an employee of each Public Entity seeking to act as a Receiving Customer for purposes of Remote Net Metering.

ADDENDUM C lists each electricity account intended to be served as a Receiving Customer Account, its allocation of the electricity credit to be applied to receiving accounts, and its previous twelve months of electricity usage for purposes of calculating an aggregate total electricity usage for all receiving customer utility accounts and establishing the maximum solar facility size.





Email Address:





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PUBLIC ENTITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

ADDENDUM B - Application for Certification of Public Entity Receiving Customers

Addendum B must contain an authorized signature from an official employee of each "Receiving Customer" associated with the electricity accounts listed in Addendum C. If more than three public entities are requested for certification to receive remote net metering credits, then the template on page 5 must be utilized as necessary. Public Entity Receiving Customer #1's Name: Customer #1 Contact Person Name (Typed or Printed): Percentage of Output Designated for Credit:_____ Authorized Signature: Date: Telephone Number: City: State: Zip: **Email Address:** Public Entity Receiving Customer #2's Name: Customer #2 Contact Person Name (Typed or Printed): Percentage of Output Designated for Credit:_____ Authorized Signature: Date: Telephone Number: City: State: Zip: **Email Address:** Public Entity Receiving Customer #3's Name: Customer #3's Contact Person Name (Typed or Printed): Percentage of Output Designated for Credit: _____ percent Authorized Signature: Date: Telephone Number: City: State: Zip:

Addendum B - copy and attach as required. For example, assign a number to each new Public Entity starting at #4. An additional sheet would be required for Public Entity #8 through #11, etc.





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Public Entity Receiving Customer #'s Name:		
Contact Person Name (Typed or Printed):		
Percentage of Output Designated for Credit:	<u>percent</u>	
Authorized Signature:		
Date:		
Telephone Number:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email Address:		
Public Entity Receiving Customer #'s Name:		
Contact Person Name (Typed or Printed):		
Percentage of Output Designated for Credit:	<u>percent</u>	
Authorized Signature:		
Date:		
Telephone Number:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email Address:		
Public Entity Receiving Customer #'s Name:		
Contact Person Name (Typed or Printed):		
Percentage of Output Designated for Credit:	<u>percent</u>	
Authorized Signature:		
Date:		
Telephone Number:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email Address:		
Public Entity Receiving Customer #'s Name:		
Contact Person Name (Typed or Printed):		
Percentage of Output Designated for Credit: Authorized Signature:	<u>percent</u>	
Date:		
Telephone Number:	_	
City: Email Address:	State:	Zip:
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ADDENDUM C – Public Entity Receiving Customer Electricity Accounts, Historic Usage, and Total Output Allocation

Addendum C must list all electricity accounts associated with the Public Entities described in Addendum B. The accounts must be listed in descending order by the percentage of total output allocation entered in column C. No more than ten accounts may be designated to receive credit and not less than 10% of the solar electric generating facility output may be allocated to a receiving customer account. The sum of percentages allocated to each account must equal 100. Each account's most recent twelve months of billed electricity consumption, entered in column D, shall be summed to provide the total aggregate electricity usage for purposes of sizing the solar facility. Use the account number provided by the EDC for electricity billing purposes.

A.	B.	C.	D.
Receiving Customer EDC Account Number	Public Entity Name	Percentage of Total Output Allocation	Previous 12 Months of Electricity Consumption (kWh)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
	Sum the val	ues in Column D.	
Total Aggregate Electricity Usage:			
Divide Total Aggregate Electricity Usage by the Statewide Solar Productivity Factor of 1154 kWh/kWdc			
Maximum Facility System Size:			
Maximum Facility System Size, or 5 MWdc whichever is smaller:			