



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES**  
100 CAMBRIDGE STREET, SUITE 1020  
BOSTON, MA 02114  
Telephone: (617) 626-7300  
Facsimile: (617) 727-0030

**Deval L. Patrick**  
Governor

**Timothy P. Murray**  
Lieutenant Governor

**Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.**  
Secretary

**Mark D. Sylvia**  
Commissioner

August 23, 2012

Dear Massachusetts Biomass and RPS Stakeholders:

As you know, last week DOER published its final regulation (225 CMR 14.00) pertaining to the eligibility of woody biomass energy for the state's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) Class I program. These new rules on biomass conclude an over two-year process of careful study and policy development to assure that the RPS program only supports biomass generation that can efficiently utilize our available biomass resources, demonstrate significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and protect our forests.

Today, under the direction of the Secretary for Energy and Environmental Affairs – as documented in his letter of August 20, 2012 – I am suspending consideration of any woody biomass Statement of Qualifications Applications (SQAs) for the RPS Class II program until such time as the applicable provisions of the Class I regulation can be promulgated into the Class II regulation. As directed by the Secretary, DOER will soon begin a rulemaking on the RPS Class II regulation (225 CMR 15.00) to accommodate these necessary changes.

The RPS Class II program was established under the Green Communities Act of 2008 and provides support of Class II Renewable Energy Certificates for existing (pre-1998) generation units. To date, no biomass units are qualified for the Class II program and no SQAs have been received. Nonetheless, DOER believes it necessary to undertake this rulemaking to provide similar protections to forests, reduce GHG emissions, and provide clarity to the market on the eligibility of biomass units for the program. DOER will inform the biomass and RPS community when this rulemaking process begins.

As DOER completes these important changes to the RPS Class II program, the Department will continue to work diligently to support emerging biomass markets and technologies that utilize biomass supplies efficiently for our RPS Class I program. In addition, with passage of An Act Relative to Competitively Priced Electricity in the Commonwealth, DOER will consider including renewable thermal technologies in our Alternative Portfolio Standard. In coordination with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, DOER will also support renewable thermal pilots over the next year. In addition, the Department also plans to actively encourage the use of



combined heat and power and community district energy systems, which can utilize biomass fuels efficiently and cleanly.

Regards,



Mark Sylvia,  
Commissioner