

January 29, 2014

Dwayne Breger Ph.D.
Director, Renewable and Alternative Energy Development
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
Re: Comments on Emergency Regulation changes to 225 CMR 14 for the Solar RPS Carve Out.

Dear Mr. Breger,

On behalf of RGS Energy, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Emergency Regulation changes to 225 CMR 14 for the Solar RPS Carve Out. Community Shared Solar is emerging as an opportunity for a much wider range of rate payers to benefit from solar energy. The current draft definition is provided below for reference:

“Community Shared Solar Generation Unit. A solar photovoltaic Generation Unit that provides net metering credits to two or more utility accounts, whose owners have a formal ownership stake in the Generation Unit or the entity that owns the Generation Unit, and for which the net metering credits provided to each account do not exceed a value in excess of the equivalent of 30 MWh of generation on an annual basis.”

We would like to propose that the definition be modified to enable the concept of beneficial ownership to replace the notion of “formal ownership stake in the Generation Unit or the entity that owns the Generation Unit”. This would enable entities, including municipalities and non-profit organizations to participate. These entities are currently restricted from having direct ownership stakes in projects that utilize federal solar tax credits.

Additionally, we would like to propose that the cap on “net metering credits provided to each account” be increased to incent customers with larger electrical demands to participate in the program. A 30 MWh beneficial ownership stake, for a consumer with a large electrical demand, may not warrant their interest in Community Shared Solar.

Based on these recommendations, the following revision to the definition is suggested:

“Community Shared Solar Generation Unit. A solar photovoltaic Generation Unit that provides net metering credits to two or more utility accounts, whose participants have a beneficial ownership interest in the production of the Generation Unit or the entity that owns the Generation Unit. Each participant is known as a Subscriber and there are no limits as to the number of Subscribers per project. A single Subscriber’s beneficial ownership interest may not be greater than 40% of the project’s total capacity.”



Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mark Nelson
Director of Business Development
RGS Energy
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East Providence, RI 02915