



January 29, 14

Dwayne Breger, Ph.D.
Michael Judge
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Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Revisions to 225 CMR 14.00 (SREC-II)

Dear Mr. Judge,

I wanted to follow up with written comments in support of the testimony I provided at the public hearing at Gardner Auditorium on 1/24/14, where I formally requested that parcels of land affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes be included under the scope of a “Brownfield”. The rationale I provided was that a “Brownfield” is a site that has become contaminated due to pollutants, and a site ruined by natural disaster has the very same end effect as a contaminated site. The rationale behind rewarding a higher SREC factor to a Brownfield, is there are added costs to the remediation and potential liability of the site. Furthermore, the higher SREC factor adds an incentive to bring a parcel of land currently unsuitable for most land development uses, as the characteristics of solar projects is a uniquely compatible land re-use of a contaminated site.

A site contaminated by natural disaster shares similar dilemmas to Brownfields in any land development. The first shared characteristic is a higher cost of remediation to the site. Any added debris from other properties, and destruction of the existing natural landscape is an added cost in site work, and therefore an additional barrier in the feasibility of re-development. The decision to reward higher SREC factors to parking canopies, brownfields, and land-fill solar development in the SREC II amendments was in part a response by the Department to curb the practice of tree clearing, in addition to encouraging diversity in market segment growth. Finally, the end result of an increase in a municipality’s tax base as a result of the project, and the act of revitalizing devastated land provides a positive benefit to the community.

In conclusion, a parcel of land destroyed by natural disaster would currently fall under the “managed growth” market segment, thereby receiving a lower factor designation. In order to continue the success rate of the Governor’s 1600 MW goal, there needs to be an explosion of growth in the market segments of parking canopies, brownfields, brightfields, etc. where growth has been comparatively minor to the managed growth sector. The inclusion of disaster areas to the brownfield market segment is an opportunity to accomplish the same policy objectives of limiting tree clearing in support of solar development within the Commonwealth by rewarding a site that can justify the very same need of added



remediation costs, and yield the same desired effect of the highest and best re-use of a contaminated parcel of land.

Best Regards,

Michael Frenette
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