

SEBANE



January 29, 2014

Commissioner Mark Sylvia
MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Comments – RPS Solar Carve-Out II

Dear Commissioner Sylvia:

SEBANE is grateful for DOER's efforts to create a robust solar market in the Commonwealth, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the RPS Solar Carve-Out II (SREC2 program) draft regulations, and congratulates the DOER staff for their speed and innovation in policy making as we work to transition to the SREC2 program. SEBANE would like to offer its ongoing support, as needed, in the final weeks before implementation.

SEBANE is the original business association of solar energy companies based or doing business in New England. It was founded by some of the world's leading solar energy professionals, who have also led the creation of the solar markets in our region. SEBANE's member companies are industry leaders and comprise all sectors of the solar electric and solar thermal industries, including photovoltaic cell and module manufacturers, component manufacturers, project developers, system designers and installers, and financial investors. SEBANE works to promote the use of solar energy and the development of the solar industry in New England.

In response to the DOER's request for written comments, the SEBANE Board held a member conference call to discuss the draft regulations. In addition, various member organizations submitted draft comments before and after the call. With so many insightful comments and so many issues to address, SEBANE would like to offer comment on a few of the more salient issues surrounding implementation for which we have had general unanimity within our membership. We expect many of our member organizations to comment on other issues as well.

We would first like to propose that the DOER consider increasing the SREC2 compliance obligation between now and the ITC sunset at the end of 2016. DOER should also contemplate adjusting Market Sector C so that it includes any Generation Unit with a nameplate capacity less than or equal to under 1 MW, thereby moving projects sized between 500kW and 1MW out of the Managed Growth Sector. The net effect would be to create more space for projects under the Managed Growth Sector's annual limits.

Because landfill- and brownfield-sited solar arrays' environmentally sound repurposing of land, SEBANE asks that the DOER reconsider their relegation to Market Sector C, as these projects can often have higher associated costs and are currently under-incentivized elsewhere.

SEBANE also sees an opportunity for community solar gardens to enable investment from consumers who are otherwise unable to install solar for reasons of aesthetics, shade, roof angle/orientation, roof space, roof warranty, roof ownership, etc. Along these lines, we recommend the Clean Energy Collective's definition as a replacement for the definition of Community Shared Solar Generation Unit currently in the proposed regulations:

Definitions 14.02

Community Shared Solar Generation Unit. A solar photovoltaic Generation Unit that provides net metering credits to ten 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.

To assure quality applications in the Managed Growth Sector, instead of first-come, first-served allocations, SEBANE recommends that the date of the approved Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA) be the criterion for queuing. In the event that multiple ISA's are submitted on the same day, the queuing mechanism could then become first-come, first-served.

SEBANE applauds the decision to create an ACP-funded finance offering for residential owners. We look forward to providing whatever services we can in the development of this program, as we believe this is perhaps the simplest way to solve the liquidity issue that many consumers face.

On behalf of its membership, the SEBANE Board of Directors thanks the DOER for this opportunity and looks forward to continued dialogue in the creation of a robust SREC2 marketplace.

SEBANE Board of Directors & Members