



Solar Energy Business Association of New England

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 Director Breger:

On behalf of the SEBANE board of directors, members, and their clients, thank you to the DOER for promptly addressing issues affecting Solar Renewable Energy Certification eligibility for the Solar Carve Out (i.e., SREC I) this year with these Emergency Regulation changes and for the opportunity to submit these comments.

In recognition of likely delays in completing PV projects over 100 kW by the end of the 2013 calendar year, the Department set an extended window for SREC I eligibility assurance for these projects through June 7, 2014 as detailed in 225 CMR 14.05(4)k. It is understood that the Department will provide guidelines detailing the protocol and documentation needed to secure SREC 1 eligibility for systems receiving authorization to interconnect on or before June 7, 2014. During the July 26th hearing, it was stated that such guidance would follow similar extension provisions for “safe harbor” used by the Federal Treasury Department during the Sec. 1603 grant program. SEBANE agrees with this approach.

The Department also demonstrates an understanding of development conditions for projects under 100 kW by extending SRECS 1 Eligibility assurance requirements for a Statement of Qualification Application beyond the June 7, 2013 deadline that was set for larger projects. This regulation change is sincerely appreciated by SEBANE. However, the regulation change omits the interconnection extension window for smaller installations; as written, the Authorization to Interconnect for under 100 kW solar units must be in hand and the SQA application submitted “by the effective date of a new solar carve-out program established by the Department or by June 30, 2014, whichever is earlier”.

SEBANE again thanks the Department for its effort to assure a smooth transition from the Solar Carve Out to SREC II, nevertheless, the effective start date is an unknown. The value of the SREC II incentive is also an unknown. This policy uncertainty combined with the normal vagaries of scheduling local inspections, especially in small towns, utility approvals and the weather in late October through the winter could present problems for strict adherence to an effective date for new program start.

Given this, SEBANE requests that the Department provide systems under 100 kW the same extension to secure SREC 1 eligibility for systems receiving authorization to interconnect on or before June 7, 2014 that has been provided to those over 100 kW.

Sincerely,
Tom W Thompson
President, SEBANE Board of Directors