

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

**SOLAR MASSACHUSETTS RENEWABLE TARGET PROGRAM**

**(225 CMR 20.00)**

**GUIDELINE**

**Statement of Qualification Reservation Period Guideline**

**Effective Date: TBD**

1) Purpose

This Guideline provides Solar Tariff Generation Units with the process and procedures in which they may retain a Statement of Qualification obtained pursuant to 225 CMR 20.06. All capitalized terms are defined in 225 CMR 20.00.

2) Initial Reservation Period for Project Implementation

Any Solar Tariff Generation Unit that obtains a Statement of Qualification will be granted an initial Reservation Period of 12 months from the issuance date of the Statement of Qualification. Unless the Commercial Operation Date occurs within this initial Reservation Period, [the Solar Tariff Generation Unit achieves mechanical completion \(as defined below\)](#), or the Solar Tariff Generation Unit receives an extension permitted under Section 6 of this Guideline, the Solar Tariff Generation Unit's Statement of Qualification will expire and will be revoked by the Department.

[For the purposes of this Guideline, mechanical completion shall mean that date on which it can be demonstrated to the Department's satisfaction that substantially all of the solar equipment on the End-use Customer's side of the Distribution Company's meter, including panels, inverters, ballasts, or other mounting equipment, has been physically constructed and all payments due to the Distribution Company under the Interconnection Service Agreement have been paid as and when due. For the avoidance of doubt, any Solar Tariff Generation Unit which achieves mechanical completion during its Reservation Period will be entitled to an Extended Reservation Period Pending Authorization to Interconnect per Section 6\(c\) of this Guideline.](#)

3) Determining of Queuing Order and Application Periods

The order in which prospective Solar Tariff Generation Units shall be allocated a Statement of Qualification shall be determined by the calendar date and time on which a ~~complete~~ Statement of Qualification Application is submitted to the Solar Program Administrator, [provided that such Statement of Qualification Application is ultimately determined to be complete by the Solar Program Administrator pursuant to Section 4 of this Guideline.](#)

a) Initial Application Period

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The Department shall establish the date upon which Statement of Qualification Applications will first be accepted. The application will become available to prospective Solar Tariff Generation Units as of 12:00 PM Eastern Time on the date established by the Department. Notwithstanding the process outlined in section 3(a), all applications submitted on that day will be considered to have been submitted at the same time. Applications will be further ordered in the following manner:

- i) Small Solar Tariff Generation Units: Applications for systems 25kW or less will be ordered according to the date of the fully executed contract between the Primary Installer and the Customer of Record.
- ii) Large Solar Tariff Generation Units: Applications for systems over 25kW will be ordered according to the execution date on the Generation Unit's Interconnection Service Agreement.

### 4) Complete Statement of Qualification Application

A complete Statement of Qualification Application for a prospective Solar Tariff Generation Unit shall provide all documents as required by 225 CMR 20.06, complete all required application fields on the Statement of Qualification Application, ~~and submit a~~ Additionally, any application fee required by the Solar Program Administrator (not to exceed \$25 per KW, as approved by the DPU), shall be submitted within ten (10) business days of the Statement of Qualification Application submission.

### 5) Cure Verification Process

~~If the~~ All ~~Statement of Qualification Applications is incomplete, the Solar Program Administrator are~~ subject to verification by the Solar Program Administrator. or Occasionally, the Department or the Solar Program Administration shall notify themay require that the applicant provide additional information or documentation to confirm the substantive facts of a Statement of Qualification Application. If the Solar Program Administrator requires such clarification, it shall notify the Solar Tariff Generation Unit of the deficiency and provide it with the opportunity to cure the deficiency. In notifying the applicant, the Solar Program Administrator or the Departmentand may set a deadline by which a complete applicationresponse must be resubmittedprovided.

~~If the~~ Department or the Solar Program Administrator determines that a Statement of Qualification Application fails to meet the requirements of 225 CMR 20.06 and Section 4 of this Guideline, it shall notify the Solar Tariff Generation Unit of the deficiency, mark the application as incomplete, and a complete application is not resubmitted by the deadline, the application will lose its priority in the order in which applications are processed and granted Statements of Qualification.

### 6) Extended Reservation Periods

The Department may grant extensions to a Solar Tariff Generation Unit's initial Reservation Period under the following circumstances:

#### a) Extended Reservation Period for a Fee

Any Solar Tariff Generation Unit may seek an extended Reservation Period of up to six months by paying a fee to the Solar Program Administrator. The fee shall be no larger than \$25 per kW, as approved by the DPU, shall be held by the Solar Program Administrator in escrow, and shall be refundable if the Solar Tariff Generation ~~Unit's Unit achieves the~~ Commercial Operation Date or mechanical completionoccurs within the extended Reservation Period. If the Solar Tariff Generation Unit ~~fails to achieve the's~~ Commercial Operation Date or if mechanical completion does not occur within the extended Reservation Period, the Solar Tariff Generation Unit's Statement of Qualification

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shall expire and the fee will be used to offset the administrative costs incurred by the Solar Program Administrator, should such cost recovery be approved by the DPU.

### b) Extended Reservation Period for Legal Challenges

Any Solar Tariff Generation Unit may seek an extended Reservation Period of up to six months if the Solar Tariff Generation Unit submits a certification that a governmental permit or approval of the Solar Tariff Generation Unit was subject to a legal challenge initiated by a party other than the Owner during its initial Reservation Period, ~~and the legal challenge remains pending provided that such~~ governmental permit(s) or approval(s) were valid and in good standing at the time of the Statement of Qualification Application.

### c) Extended Reservation Period Pending Authorization to Interconnect

If a Solar Tariff Generation Unit can demonstrate to the Department's satisfaction that interconnection depends only upon receipt of notice of authorization to interconnect from the Distribution Company, its initial Reservation Period shall be extended indefinitely until such notice is received or denied.

i) For the purposes of satisfying the requirements of an extension under Section 6(c) of this Guideline, a Solar Tariff Generation Unit may provide:

- (1) a Certificate of Completion, signed by the local wiring inspector;
- (2) An affidavit, signed by the engineer of record, stating that the Solar Tariff Generation Unit meets the conditions of mechanical completion set forth in Section 2 of this Guideline; or,
- (3) Other documentation deemed satisfactory by the Department.

### d) Extended Reservation Period for Good Cause

If a Solar Tariff Generation Unit has received an extension under Section 6(a) of this Guideline and can demonstrate to the Department's satisfaction that good cause warrants a further extension not provided for under sections 6(b) or (c) of this Guideline, it shall receive an extended Reservation Period with a deadline determined by the Department.

## 7) Expiration of Reservation Period

If a Solar Tariff Generation Unit's Reservation Period expires, the Department shall revoke its Statement of Qualification. Any capacity that the Solar Tariff Generation Unit had previously reserved under a Capacity Block will be removed from that Capacity Block and assigned to the current Capacity Block in which new Solar Tariff Generation Units are reserving capacity.

## 8) Adder Eligibility and Qualification

### a) Location Based and Solar Tracking Adders

A Solar Tariff Generation Unit that is applying for a Location Based Adder and/or Solar Tracking Adder, as defined in 225 CMR 20.07(4)(a) and (d), respectively, must ~~provide proof of adder eligibility at the~~

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~~time it submits its Statement of Qualification Application~~ comply with all applicable Department Guidelines, and must verify that it meets all adder eligibility criteria upon its Commercial Operation Date.

### b) Off-taker Based and Energy Storage Adders

A Solar Tariff Generation Unit that is applying for an Off-taker Based Adder and/or an Energy Storage Adder as defined in 225 CMR 20.07(4)(b) and (c), respectively, should indicate this intention in the Statement of Qualification Application, in which case the Compensation Rate Adder eligibility and value shall be reflected on the Statement of Qualification issued by the Department.

However, a Solar Tariff Generation Unit may also qualify for Compensation Rate Adders~~an adder~~ at any ~~time during a Solar Tariff Generation Unit's Reservation Period, or time~~ after its Commercial Operation Date, provided it is still within its compensation rate term, pursuant to 225 CMR 20.07(1), in which case the Department shall issue a revised Statement of Qualification and the Compensation Rate Adder for such facilities will be the applicable Compensation Rate Adder at the time the Solar Tariff Generation Unit qualifies for the Off-taker Based Adder and/or Energy Storage Adder.

~~A Solar Tariff Generation Unit that qualifies for an Off-taker Based Adder and/or an Energy Storage Adder after its Commercial Operation Date may only receive the Compensation Rate Adder(s) for the remainder of its compensation rate term, provided it can demonstrate continued compliance with the eligibility criteria. The value of the Compensation Rate Adder for such facilities will be the applicable Compensation Rate Adder at the time the Solar Tariff Generation Unit qualifies for the Off-taker Based Adder and/or Energy Storage Adder.~~

### 9) Compliance with the SMART Tariffs

A Solar Tariff Generation Unit must remain in compliance with the provisions set forth in the SMART Tariffs as approved by the Department of Public Utilities. The Department of Energy Resources may, in its reasonable discretion, determine a~~A Solar Tariff Generation Unit determined~~ to be non-compliant with the SMART Tariff. In such event, the Solar Tariff Generation Unit, may be shall be notified by the Department of Energy Resources that they are found to be non-compliant pursuant to 225 CMR 20.11, along with an explanation detailing the reason for such a determination. If, following a commercially reasonable period during which the Solar Tariff Generation Unit is given an opportunity to cure any condition of non-compliance, the Department of Energy Resources which may result in the ~~suspension suspend or revocation-revoke of the~~ Statement of Qualification.