State of New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver

Board of Public Utilities





Joseph L. Fiordaliso President

Mary-Anna Holden Dianne Solomon Bob Gordon Dr. Zenon Christodoulou **Commissioners**

NOTICE¹

IN THE MATTER OF COMPETITVE SOLAR INCENTIVE ("CSI") PROGRAM PURSUANT TO P.L. 2021, C. 169

Docket No. QO21101186

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBPU" or "Board") hereby gives notice and invites all interested parties and members of the public to participate in a virtual Stakeholder Meeting regarding the first solicitation of the Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program. The Board announced the opening of the Program by Order dated December 7, 2022.² As mandated by the Solar Act of 2021, the CSI Program will solicit for solar generation totaling 300 MW per year through 2026. The solicitation portal for the first bid into the CSI Program will open for pre-qualification on February 1, 2023 and remain open for bid submission until 11:59:59 p.m. EST on March 31, 2023. Board Staff invites stakeholders to an informational session on the solicitation process. The CSI Program opened to qualifying grid supply solar installations and non-residential net metered solar installations with a capacity greater than five (5) megawatts ("MW"), as well as to eligible grid supply solar installations in combination with energy storage. The CSI Order also established siting requirements for many solar facilities designed to ensure the affordable expansion of New Jersey's commitment to renewable energy while not compromising the State's commitment to preserving and protecting open space and farmland. These solar siting rules, developed in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, apply to projects eligible to participate in the CSI Program regardless of whether they will pursue an incentive.

The CSI Program is structured into four separate competitive categories, or tranches, with the following per-tranche MW procurement targets, with the total procurement summing to 300 MW for the first year. An additional fifth tranche allows for storage in combination with a grid supply solar award.

| Tranche | Target |
|--|---------|
| 1. Basic Grid Supply | 140 MW |
| 2. Grid Supply on the Built Environment | 80 MW |
| 3. Grid Supply on Contaminated Sites and Landfills | 40 MW |
| 4. Net Metered Non-residential Projects above 5 MW | 40 MW |
| 5. Storage Paired with Grid Supply Solar | 160 MWh |

For the first solicitation, the pre-qualification window will open on February 1, 2023 and remain open until bids are due at 11:59:59 p.m. EST on March 31, 2023. During this window, developers may submit their pre-qualification paperwork to the Board's CSI solicitation manager, Daymark Energy Advisors ("Daymark"), who will review the documents and identify any deficiencies. The developer will have the opportunity to cure until such time that the bids are due. Deficiencies in applications at the time bids are due will result in projects not being allowed to participate in the solicitation. During the pre-qualification period, Daymark will also perform a preliminary assessment to determine whether an individual project would breach the regulatory caps on agricultural land use.

¹ Not a paid legal advertisement.

² In re Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to P.L. 2021, c.169, BPU Docket No. QO21101186, Order dated December 7, 2022 (the "CSI Order").

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A Stakeholder Meeting regarding the first solicitation of the CSI Program will be held at the following date and time, and in the following manner:

| INFORMATIONAL SESSION | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| | January 27, 2023 | |
| | 2:30 p.m. EST Zoom Virtual Webinar | |
| REGISTER: | https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DPHHXo4-Tra1wp4IUwjLuA | |
| | | |

Board Staff will host the informational meeting along with Daymark. The hosts will present information on the solicitation portal, the prequalification requirements for the competitive tranches, and the prequalification evaluation Daymark will perform. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers, and answers to verbal and written questions will be posted on the solicitation portal website FAQ section.

Held via Webinar

Please note that the meeting will be conducted virtually. You must register for the meeting before attending. Please register at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled date. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting and information about checking your system requirements in advance of the meeting. Stakeholders should check their access devices in advance of the meeting to ensure that they will properly connect. Stakeholders and members of the public are invited to participate by utilizing the link or dial-in information provided in the registration confirmation email and may express their views. In order to encourage full participation, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters and/or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearing to the Board Secretary at <u>board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov</u>.

Questions on this stakeholder process may be directed to solar.programs@bpu.nj.gov.

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Carmen D. Diaz Acting Secretary of the Board

Dated: January 12, 2023