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NOTICE¹

Docket No. QO20020184

New Jersey 2019/2020 Solar Transition

Solar Successor Program

Stakeholder Notice

Pursuant to the "Open Public Meetings Act", N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBP") is announcing the next phase of its stakeholder initiative to fully inform the design of New Jersey's next-generation solar incentive, known as the Solar Successor Program.

Upcoming milestones in the Solar Transition and the Successor Program process include:

- The release of the NJBP solar consultant's draft Capstone Report on the Successor Program for public comment;
- A virtual workshop for solar stakeholders to learn about the publicly-accessible financial modeling tool, known as System Advisor Model ("SAM") that NJBP's consultant is using throughout the Successor Program modeling, and to discuss modeling assumptions;
- A virtual stakeholder meeting to discuss the content and draft results of the consultant's Capstone Report after its publication; and
- The publication of an anticipated timeline on Staff's release of a Straw Proposal on the Successor Program for public comment.

Staff is announcing this schedule in advance to provide maximum transparency to the stakeholder community on its Solar Successor Program timeline.

Background

The Clean Energy Act requires NJBP to complete a study that evaluates how to replace or modify the Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC) program to encourage the continued efficient and orderly development of solar renewable energy generating resources throughout the

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State. The Clean Energy Act also requires the closure of the SREC market upon the State's attainment of 5.1% of kilowatt-hours sold from solar electric generation facilities (the "5.1% Milestone"). In implementing the Clean Energy Act, NJBPU has engaged a consultant, the Cadmus Group, LLC ("Cadmus"), and is conducting a lengthy, multi-step Solar Transition process that has been informed by extensive stakeholder input in multiple phases. The process has involved closing the SREC program ("Legacy SREC Program") to new entrants, designing and implementing a solar Transition Incentive program, and developing a successor solar incentive mechanism (the "Successor Program"). Further details regarding the Solar Transition process are available on the Clean Energy Program website: <https://njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/program-updates-and-background-information/solar-proceedings>.

Stakeholder Process

NJBPU Staff with their consultant Cadmus have held two stakeholder meetings to date specific to the Solar Successor Program. On December 17, 2019, Cadmus led a stakeholder workshop to discuss the primary incentive types that could serve as the basis of the Successor Program. On March 3, 2020, Staff held a stakeholder meeting and solicited comments on four topics: the Successor Program incentive design, MW targets and program capacity, grid supply solar, and solar siting.

Staff plans to convene further opportunities for stakeholder input on the Successor Program in the coming months. The Successor Program stakeholder process will continue to build upon comments and input received throughout the Successor Program stakeholder process and the Solar Transition process, including those received during the development of the Transition Incentive program and at the closure of the SREC registration program.

Specifically, Staff will be conducting two additional phases of stakeholder engagement:

Discussion of Modeling and Capstone Report

- Early August 2020: Publication of draft Capstone Report and modeling assumptions;
- August 17, 2020: Stakeholder workshop: System Advisor Model ("SAM") model walkthrough and technical modeling discussion (***see details below***);
- August 20, 2020: Stakeholder meeting and opportunity for public comment on the Capstone Report (***see details below***);
- August 31, 2020: Public comment period on Capstone Report and modeling assumptions closes (***see details below***);
- Fall 2020: Publication of final Capstone Report.

Straw Proposal on Design of Successor Program

- September-October 2020: NJBPU Staff releases Successor Program Straw Proposal, followed by a series of topic-specific stakeholder workshops;
- Fall 2020: Board Order on Successor Program presented to the Board;
- Winter 2020-2021: Rule Proposal on Successor Program presented to the Board, open to public comments.

This proposed schedule is subject to modification based on the ongoing process.

Meeting Details

Meeting #1: Monday, August 17, 2020

In order to support the ongoing stakeholder input on the Successor Program modeling, Cadmus Group will conduct a walkthrough and discussion on the modeling. This meeting will be structured in two parts:

- Part 1: Instructional modeling walkthrough by Cadmus to allow stakeholders to gain familiarity with the financial model used in the development of incentives in the Successor Program.
- Part 2: Discussion of the modeling and its assumptions to enable stakeholders to provide feedback on various project configurations.

In the interest of public health and safety, this meeting will be conducted via a webinar on:

Date: Monday, August 17, 2020

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

To ensure available space and the security of the process, please register for the meeting no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 14, 2020** via the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2968467398811716110>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar and checking your system requirements. We encourage all webinar attendees to check their systems in advance of the meeting to ensure a smooth connection on the day of the meeting.

Meeting #2: Thursday, August 20, 2020

Following the publication of the draft Capstone Report in early August 2020, Staff and Cadmus will hold a stakeholder meeting to discuss the report's findings and recommendations. **More information about this stakeholder meeting – including the registration link and instructions for submitting written comments – will be provided upon the release of the Capstone Report.**

In the interest of public health and safety, this meeting will be conducted via a webinar on:

Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.



Aida Camacho-Welch
Secretary of the Board

Dated: August 5, 2020