

April 20, 2011

Re: DE 10-024, Residential Solar Hot Water Rebate and Renewable Energy Fund Budgets

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 21, 2010, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission established a residential solar hot water rebate program funded with \$500,000 from the Renewable Energy Fund and \$496,000 from the Office of Energy and Planning's (OEP) State Energy Program. The OEP funds originated from the Department of Energy (DOE) through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and are available for this program until February 12, 2012. The program application process is based on two steps. In Step 1, the applicant obtains pre-approval for their proposed system at which time funds are reserved for the applicant for a period up to of twelve months but no later than February 12, 2012. In Step 2, the applicant provides documentation that the installation has occurred and is functioning as planned. If the required documentation is submitted within twelve months of the pre-approval date and all program requirements have been met, the applicant receives the rebate check.

On March 18, 2011, OEP notified the Commission that the DOE is encouraging all ARRA grant recipients to fully expend their funds by the end of summer 2011. Accordingly, OEP has requested that the Commission modify the residential solar hot water rebate in the following manner: 1) reduce the twelve month reservation window to three months and, 2) require all participants to complete their installations, regardless of their reservation expiration date, by October 31, 2011. This would give a "buffer" period of just over three months to assess if additional funds are available to be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Please be advised that the Commission has modified the reservation window to a three month period, that being from the date of pre-approval to the date the Step 2 application is received by the Commission. The Commission will also, through language modification in the application and through installer and participant marketing, strongly encourage that all projects be completed by October 31, 2011 in order to assess if funds remain for additional rebates.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

Cc: DE 10-024 Docket file