

## 102 Implementation of Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards Cost Cap Provisions

### 1.0 Purpose

These rules govern how the Director of the Division of Energy & Climate (Director) and the Division of Energy & Climate (Division) administer their obligations under 26 Del.C. §354(i) & (j). The statute directs when and whether the Director may institute a freeze on the implementation of the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards as provided for in 26 Del.C. §354(a).

### 2.0 Definitions

As used in these rules:

**"Alternative compliance payment"** means a payment of a certain dollar amount per megawatt hour, which ~~a retail electricity supplier or municipal electric company~~ a Commission-Regulated Electric Company may submit in lieu of supplying the minimum percentage of RECs from Eligible Energy Resources required as defined and set by 26 Del.C. §§352(1) and 358(d).

**"Average QFCP Project offset cost"** means the dollar amount to be attributed to the cost of a MWh of output from a QFCP Project during a compliance year.

**"Avoided system costs"** means reductions in electric generation, transmission or distribution costs.

**"Compliance year"** means the calendar year beginning with June 1 and ending with May 31 of the following year, for which ~~a retail electricity supplier or municipal electric company~~ Commission-Regulated Electric Company must demonstrate that it has met the requirements of the this subchapter known as the "Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards Act."

**"Division"** means the Division of Energy & Climate, the successor agency to the Delaware Energy Office.

**"Director"** means the Director of the Division of Energy & Climate, who is considered the State Energy Coordinator for the purpose of these rules.

**"End-use customer"** means a person or entity in Delaware that purchases electrical energy to whom electrical energy at retail prices from regulated electric utilities is delivered over the distribution facilities of an electric distribution utility regulated by the PSC.

**"Exempt load sales"** means the retail customer load sales of a retail electrical supplier a Commission-Regulated Electric Company that is either exempt not included in the total retail sales for from RPS compliance or supplied by a third party supplier.

**"Externality benefits"** means reductions in environmental, health and mortality costs.

**"Freeze"** means suspension of enforcement or implementation of the RPS as provided for under 26 Del.C. §§352(3) & 354(a).

**"Green Energy Fund"** means the grant program authorized under 29 Del.C. §8057.

**"Non-exempt sales load"** means the retail customer sales load of a Commission-Regulated e Electric Company retail electrical supplier that is not subject included in the total retail sales for RPS Compliance, or supplied by a third party supplier.

**"PJM" or "PJM interconnection"** means the regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in the PJM region, or its successors at law.

**"Price suppression effects"** means reductions in energy costs due to competitive pressures from renewable resources.

“PSC” means the Delaware Public Service Commission.

“**Qualified fuel cell provider project**” or “**QFCPP**” means a fuel cell power generation project located in Delaware owned and/or operated by a qualified fuel cell provider under a tariff approved by the Commission pursuant to 26 Del. Code, §-364(d). ~~of this title shall mean an entity defined by 26 Del.C. §352(17) and authorized to receive surcharge payments paid by customers of an electric distribution company under 26 Del.C. §364(d)(1)f., g., j., & k. and a tariff approved by the PSC.~~

“**REC costs of compliance**” means the total costs expended by ~~the Commission-Regulated Electric utilities Company retail electric suppliers or electric distribution utilities~~ to achieve the applicable RPS percentage standards for RECs during a particular-respective compliance year.

“**REC offset hours**” and “**SREC offset hours**” mean the MWh of output from a QFCPP that is utilized under 26 Del.C. §353(d) to offset ~~or fulfill~~ the number of RECs and/or SRECs that might otherwise be required to be retired surrendered to meet the REC and/or SREC percentage requirements in a compliance year.

“**REC percentage requirements**” and “**SREC percentage requirements**” mean the renewable energy portfolio requirements for each compliance year as set forth in 26 Del.C. §354(a).

“**Renewable Energy Credit**” or “**REC**” means ~~the a tradable~~ instrument defined by 26 Del.C. §352(18) used to demonstrate compliance with the percentage requirements set forth in 26 Del.C. §354(a).

“**Renewable Energy Credit payment amounts**” or “**REC payment amounts**” means the dollar amounts expended to produce or procure RECs that are utilized to meet REC percentage requirements in a particular-respective compliance year.

“**Renewable Energy Cost of Compliance**” means the total costs expended by ~~the Commission-Regulated Electric Company retail electric suppliers or electric distribution utilities~~ to achieve the applicable RPS percentage standards for all renewable energy during a particular-respective compliance year.

“**Commission-Regulated Electric Company electricity supplier**” means the same as an Electric Distribution Company in 26 Del. C. §1001(12) a person or entity that sells electrical energy to end-use customers in Delaware delivered over the distribution facilities of an electric distribution utility regulated by the PSC.

“**RPS**” means the renewable portfolio standard, the minimum percentage of total electricity sales delivered to Delaware end-use customers that is derived from requirements of eligible energy resources ~~and solar photovoltaics~~ established under 26 Del.C., §354.

~~“**RPS load**” means the total volume of electricity sold or delivered during a compliance year, excluding sales or deliveries made to any industrial customer (as designated by the PSC) with a peak demand in excess of 1,500 kilowatts.~~

“**Solar alternative compliance payment amounts**” means the payment of a certain dollar amounts expended in lieu of supplying the minimum percentage from solar photovoltaics for alternative solar compliance payments as defined and set by 26 Del.C. §§352(24) and 358(e).

“**Solar Renewable Energy Credit**” or “**SREC**” means the tradable instrument defined by 26 Del.C. §352(25) used to demonstrate compliance with the percentage requirements set forth in 26 Del.C. §354(a).

“**Solar Renewable Energy Credit amounts**” or “**SREC payment amounts**” mean the dollar amounts expended to produce or procure SRECs that are utilized to meet SREC percentage requirements in a particular-respective compliance year.

**“Solar Renewable Energy Cost of Compliance”** means the total costs expended by ~~retail electric suppliers or electric distribution~~ a Commission-Regulated Electric utilities Company to achieve the applicable RPS percentage standards for solar photovoltaic renewable energy during a ~~particular~~ particular ~~respective~~ compliance year.

**“Surcharge payments”** means the dollar amounts (whether positive or negative) paid to, or received by, customers of DP&L from a QFCPP and DP&L under 26 **Del.C.** §364(d)(1) and an implementing tariff approved by the PSC.

~~“Third party supplier” means an electricity supplier that sells power to end use customers delivered over the distribution facilities of an electric distribution utility regulated by the PSC.~~

**“Total Retail Costs of Electricity”** means the total costs expended by the Commission-Regulated Electric Company ~~retail electric suppliers~~ to produce, purchase, distribute and deliver retail electricity energy to serve the non-exempt lead customers during a ~~particular~~ particular ~~respective~~ compliance year.

### 3.0 Application

3.1 These rules shall apply ~~only in the case to only a Commission-Regulated Electric Company of retail electric supply delivered over the distribution facilities of an electric distribution utility regulated by the Public Service Commission.~~ These rules shall not apply to electric supply provided by either:

3.1.1 an exempted municipal electric company or a municipal utility (as set forth in 26 **Del.C.** §363); or

3.1.2 an exempted rural electric cooperative or a rural electric cooperative (as set forth in 26 **Del.C.** §363).

3.2 These rules will be applied beginning in compliance year 2013, as defined in 26 **Del.C.** §§352(3) and 354(a).

### 4.0 Calculation of the Cost of Compliance

4.1 The Division shall calculate the Renewable Energy Cost of Compliance, the Solar Renewable Energy Cost of Compliance and the Total Retail Cost of Electricity.

4.2 The Division shall calculate the Renewable Energy Cost of Compliance for a particular compliance year to be:

4.2.1 the total of contributions to that portion of the Green Energy Fund used to support the development of renewable resources, plus

4.2.2 the cost of RECs and SRECs retired to satisfy the RPS requirement, plus

4.2.3 all Alternative Compliance Payments, plus

4.2.4 the cost of QFCPP offsets to the RPS.

4.3 The Division shall calculate the Solar Renewable Energy Cost of Compliance for a particular compliance year to be:

4.3.1 the total of contributions to that portion of the Green Energy Fund used to support the development of photovoltaic renewable resources, plus

4.3.2 the cost of SRECs retired to satisfy the RPS requirement, plus

4.3.3 all Solar Alternative Compliance Payments ~~for the solar photovoltaic requirement~~, plus

4.3.4 the cost of QFCPP offsets to the solar photovoltaic carve-out.

4.4 The Division will determine the Total Retail Costs of Electricity as all customer costs for non-exempt load-sales of the customers for a particular-respective compliance year.

## 5.0 Determination by the Director

5.1 The Director shall review the calculations of the Division.

5.2 If the Division calculations show that the Renewable Energy Cost of Compliance is equal to or greater than 3 percent of the Total Retail Cost, the Director shall determine whether a freeze should be implemented.

5.3 If the Division calculations show that the Solar Renewable Energy Cost of Compliance is equal to or greater than 1 percent of the Total Retail Cost of Electricity, the Director shall determine whether a freeze should be implemented.

5.4 In making a determination, the Director may consider:

5.4.1 the overall energy market conditions;

5.4.2 the avoided cost benefits from the RPS;

5.4.3 the externality benefits of changes in energy markets; and

5.4.4 the economic impacts of the deployment of renewable energy in Delaware.

5.5 Overall market conditions may include shifts in energy prices, long term market trends, adjustments for short term fluctuations, changes in compliance costs, consumer benefits of other state energy policies such as the implementation of energy efficiency programs, and the overall cost of energy to consumers.

5.6 Avoided cost benefits from the RPS may include avoided system costs and price suppression effects attributable to the deployment of renewable energy.

5.7 Externality benefits of changes in energy markets may include externality savings in health and mortality costs due to policies promoting cleaner energy in Delaware and regional energy generation. The externality savings should be consistent with the current IRP filed by the regulated electric utility.

5.8 Economic development benefits may include the overall economic activity attributed to jobs created by the development of renewable energy in Delaware.

## 6.0 Implementation

6.1 If a freeze is imposed under section 5.0 above, the Director, in consultation with the PSCommission, will declare the freeze and notify, electronically and by mail, the Commission -Regulated Electric Company ~~all retail electric suppliers and electric distribution utilities~~ that filed reports on RPS compliance.

The Director will also:

6.1.1 provide prior notice of the freeze to the PSC; and

6.1.2 publish notice of such freeze in the next appropriate issue of the Delaware *Register of Regulations*.

6.2 In implementing a freeze under these rules, existing contracts for the production or delivery of RECs, SRECs, renewable energy supply or other environmental attributes shall not be abrogated.

## 7.0 Lifting of a Freeze

7.1 If a freeze has been imposed, the Division will calculate compliance costs, using the methods described in Section 4.0 of these regulations.

7.2 The Director will review the calculation and determine whether to lift a freeze using the methods and criteria described in Section 5.0 of these rules.

7.3 The Director may determine when and whether to lift a freeze in consultation with the PSC ~~Commission~~.

7.4 If a freeze is lifted, the Director will promptly notify, electronically and by mail, ~~all retail electric suppliers and the Commission -Regulated electric~~ Electric distribution utilities ~~Company~~ that filed reports on RPS compliance. The Director will also:

7.4.1 provide prior notice to the PSC of the lift of the freeze ~~to the PSC~~; and

7.4.2 publish notice of such freeze in the next appropriate issue of the Delaware *Register of Regulations*.

## 8.0 Administration

8.1 Within 90 days after the end of any compliance year, the Commission-Regulated eElectric Company ~~each retail supplier and electric distribution company~~ shall submit to the Division in writing and electronically the following information for the applicable compliance year:

8.1.1 the Renewable Energy Cost of Compliance ~~for that retail supplier or electric distribution utility~~ for that compliance year;

8.1.2 the Solar Renewable Energy Cost of Compliance ~~costs for that retail supplier or electric distribution company~~ for that compliance year;

8.1.3 the Total Retail Costs of Electricity ~~for that retail supplier or electric distribution company~~ for that compliance year.

8.1.4 the total MWh of output (either actual or deemed) produced by a QFCPP during the compliance year;

8.1.5 the total amount of QFCPP surcharge payments paid by ~~its~~ the Commission-Regulated Electric Company's customers during the compliance year;

8.1.6 the calculation of the average QFCPP offset cost for the compliance year under section 7.0; and

8.1.7 the number of QFCPP output hours that ~~it~~ the Commission-Regulated Electric Company would allocate to SREC and REC offset hours for the compliance year.

8.2 Within 30 days from receipt of the information described in Section 8.1 from the Commission-Regulated Electric Company, ~~each retail supplier and electric distribution company~~ the Division shall calculate the cost of compliance as described in Section 4.0 of these Regulations and present the results to the Director.

8.3 Within 30 days of receipt of the calculations of the cost of compliance from the Division, the Director shall make a determination as described in Section 5.0 of these regulations and present to the Registrar for publication.

8.4 The public will have 30 days from the publication of the Director's determination to offer comment. The Director may alter or amend the determination based on review of the public comments.

8.5 The Director shall make a final determination and present to the Registrar for publication within 15 days of receipt of public comments. The determination shall be effective upon its publication.

**17 DE Reg. 600 (12/01/13) (Prop.)**