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May 9, 2014

CASE 14-M-0101 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission in Regard to Reforming the Energy Vision.

Letter Ruling on Process for First Collaborative Meeting

ELEANOR STEIN and JULIA SMEAD BIELAWSKI, Administrative Law Judges:

To supplement the agenda for the first collaborative meeting in this proceeding, contained in the ruling issued May 1, 2014, this ruling conveys to parties some of the ground rules we will be discussing at the opening of the meeting. It also elaborates on the working schedule and the procedures for the organization of working groups to be convened in the afternoon.

With respect to the ground rules for the collaborative, here is some basic information about the organization of this proceeding. This information is provided in response to a flood of questions from many of you about process and procedure.

First, as you see, Judge Bielawski has been added to this proceeding. Our role as administrative law judges is to facilitate, overall, the collaborative phase, as well as to serve as part of the advisory Staff.

Second, as the ruling on schedule indicated, Department of Public Service Staff (Staff) is charged with preparing specific recommendations on policy, program design, and implementation, using the Staff Report issued April 25, 2014 as an initial starting point. The Track 1 issues, concerning markets, customer participation, and platform technology, will be the subject of a Staff straw proposal by August 7, 2014. That straw proposal will be the subject of comments by parties. To this end, Staff is not a trial or adversary party, but is an advisory group seeking information and input from parties to inform its recommendations to the Commission. Therefore Staff is looking to collaborative participants to inform their understanding of the opportunities and the obstacles associated with realizing the REV vision. The collaborative is

largely a fact-finding undertaking. To meet the expeditious schedule in the April 25, 2014 order instituting this proceeding, the Track 1 working groups should report their findings by July 1.

In this context, we strongly urge parties to consolidate your work on these issues, and your filed comments, to the extent possible with like-minded others for maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

Third, we have created two working groups for party participation: Working Group I will address Markets and Customer Engagement, and will be convened by Debbie LaBelle. Working Group I will have two committees: Markets & Pricing, convened by Tammy Mitchell, and Customer Engagement, convened by Luann Scherer and John Williams (NYSERDA). Working Group II will address all issues concerning Platform Technology, and will be convened by Mike Rieder. Working Group II will also have one committee with a specific charge within that topic: Microgrids and Community Grids, to be convened by Matt Wallace. We anticipate that both the Working Groups and the committees will also recruit co-convenors from other participants in the collaborative.

Clearly these Working Groups and committees only cover some of the many issues in this proceeding. When the Working Groups convene on Monday, we expect the discussion to open with the scope of the work of the group, and other proposals will be considered based on those discussions. We expect the initial meetings of the Working Groups to produce a statement of the scope of work, and a work plan.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday.