



September 30, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Honorable Kathleen H. Burgess
Secretary
New York Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Re: Case 15-E-0302 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard

Dear Secretary Burgess:

Please accept these comments on behalf of the National Fuel Cell Research Center in response to the Notice Soliciting Comments on NYSERDA's Request for Clarification, issued September 12, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____/s/_____

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Comments of the National Fuel Cell Research Center

I. Introduction

The National Fuel Cell Research Center (“NFCRC”) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments in response to the September 12, 2016 Notice Soliciting Comments on Request for Clarification (“Notice”) issued in the above-captioned proceeding.

The NFCRC facilitates and accelerates the development and deployment of fuel cell systems; promotes strategic alliances to address the market challenges associated with the installation and integration of fuel cell systems; and educates and develops resources for distributed generation and combined heat and power (CHP) stakeholders around the world. The NFCRC is working with GE-Fuel Cells, LLC; LG Fuel Cell Systems Inc.; Bloom Energy; Doosan Fuel Cell America; and FuelCell Energy. Stationary fuel cells (both utility-scale and behind-the-meter (BTM)) possess attributes essential to the objectives of the CES and the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) proceeding by:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the displacement of less efficient central generating plants, especially those that are “on the margin;”
- Increasing system efficiency, avoiding transmission and distribution system investments, providing voltage support and reducing line losses;
- Installing local distributed energy resources (DER) in locations as an alternative to increased transmission and avoiding or delaying upgrades to the distribution system based on projected local capacity increases.
- Essentially eliminating emissions of criteria pollutants as well as withdrawals and discharges of water;

- Avoiding visual impacts associated with large scale resources and their associated transmission infrastructure;
- Providing customer and system resiliency while reducing program costs;
- Providing firm capacity additions that intermittent renewables cannot provide;
- Providing renewable power and heat.

II. Discussion

On August 25, 2016, NYSERDA filed a Petition requesting “clarification, prior to December 1, 2016, regarding the status of attributes associated with NY-Sun and CST projects.” The September 12, 2016 Notice soliciting comments included a statement that appears to be an inaccurate and selective quote from the August 1, 2016 Commission Order Establishing a Clean Energy Standard (“Order”). The Notice states that the Commission noted on page 81 of the Order that once the current net energy metering compensation mechanism moves to a LMP+D approach based on a more precise determination of the value of distributed energy resources, “it will be appropriate to revisit the question of how behind-the-meter *resources* should be considered.” (Notice, at 2, emphasis added). However, the quoted portion of the August 1, 2016 Order does not read that way. Instead, the pertinent part of the Order says that “it will be appropriate to revisit the question of under what circumstances BTM *load* should be considered *as part of the base forecast*.” (Order at 81, emphases added).

With regard to the issue that actually formed the basis of NYSERDA’s Petition, the Commission should pursue the course of action that most effectively ensures that the objectives of the CES program are advanced.

III. Conclusion

The NFCRC supports the State of New York’s effort to develop a leading and nationally recognized Clean Energy Standard and looks forward to participating in this important process.