

GREENSPARK SOLAR

June 17, 2026

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Hon. Michelle L. Phillips
Secretary
New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350
secretary@dps.ny.gov

Request for Urgent Action: Modernize Value of Distributed Energy Resources (VDER) Rates to Capture Federal Investment Tax Credits

Dear Secretary Phillips,

I'm writing on behalf of GreenSpark Solar to urge you to quickly adopt the updated rates proposed by the Department of Public Service (DPS) in the Value of Distributed Energy Resources (VDER) proceeding (Case 15-E-0751) last December. Doing so will increase the accuracy of compensation for community solar and energy storage projects, ensuring that ratepayers benefit from lower cost and cleaner solutions to meet rising demand for electricity. Timely action will also ensure that New York ratepayers benefit from limited federal funding by enabling companies like mine to "commence construction" by July 4, 2026 and lock-in the federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC) to build cost-effective solar projects in New York.

GreenSpark is headquartered in Upstate New York and employs 150 people and approximately 300 temporary workers across the State. The impact of this VDER proceeding extends beyond jobs. As energy demand grows, DER compensation should reflect the value these resources provide to ratepayers and the grid. Undervaluing proven, cost-effective DERs will discourage investment, increase long-term system costs, and undermine New York's energy, reliability, and affordability objectives.

GreenSpark Solar has invested significantly in developing and building community solar and energy storage in New York State. Following the publication of the DPS



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Staff Proposal to update VDER in December 2025, we initiated a wave of development for projects that would not be economically feasible based on the current (out-of-date) rates, but that would be feasible if/when the DPS Staff Proposal is adopted. Of course, these projects will only be viable if they secure both the updated/more accurate VDER rates proposed by DPS and the federal ITC, creating a short window of opportunity.

The stakes are high, and significant delays or deviations from the Staff Proposal could disrupt capital flows to New York State, jeopardizing billions of dollars of investment in clean energy infrastructure needed to affordably meet rising demand for electricity in the State. Alternatively, by adopting more accurate VDER rates as soon as possible, the Commission can ensure that New Yorkers benefit from cost-effective community solar projects that are built with federal support in the coming years.

The sooner that the Commission adopts updated VDER rates, the more projects will be able to commence construction and secure the federal ITC. VDER was not on the May or June session agenda, so we respectfully urge the Commission to consider an off-cycle Order to support New York's efforts to leverage federal ITCs and lower the cost of clean energy for ratepayers.

Federal actions are making it more challenging for New York State to make progress toward its clean energy and affordability goals. However, by moving quickly to adopt the Staff Proposal in the VDER proceeding, the Commission can improve accuracy and make sure that New York doesn't leave any federal funding on the table.

Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me at mary.nicholas@greensparksolar.com.

Sincerely,

Mary Nicholas
State Policy Director
GreenSpark Solar



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