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Audrey Zibelman, Chair

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Utilities to Develop Energy Storage Projects, Expanding Efforts to Create Renewable Power Systems Across New York

— Public Service Commission Order is Part of Utility Planning Required for New Role as Distributed System Platforms —

ALBANY — The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) is providing New York utilities with new goals and requirements to help them tap into the benefits of energy storage systems. As part of a Commission order advancing utility planning of Distributed System Implementation Platforms (DSIP), the Commission directed the state’s investor-owned utilities to deploy at least two energy-storage projects by the end of 2018.

“With advances in energy storage technologies, utilities should be using energy storage as part of their normal course of business,” said Commission Chair **Audrey Zibelman**. “Now is the time to determine the best locations, technologies, and uses for energy storage, and today’s order will accelerate the utilities’ deployment of this technology.”

Today’s order requires utilities to “significantly increase the scope and speed of their energy storage endeavors (and) by no later than December 31, 2018, each individual utility must have energy storage projects deployed and operating at no fewer than two separate distribution substations or feeders.” Utilities will strive to have these energy-storage systems perform at least two types of grid functions, such as increasing the generating capacity of a substation (“hosting capacity”) or help reduce the power needed when energy demand is at its highest (“peak load”).

The energy-storage requirement is part of a broader order by the Commission to improve utility planning under Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), New York’s strategy to build a cleaner, more resilient and affordable energy system. Under REV, utilities will act as “Distributed System Platforms” (DSP) to develop smaller, cleaner energy systems as well as services to help consumers better manage their electricity usage. Today’s order sets new deadlines and other requirements for utilities to further develop key elements of DSIP planning.

The order also adopts a standard for sharing and protecting aggregated customer data and requires utilities to propose standards for the evaluation of energy efficiency in buildings. Sharing aggregated customer usage allows for innovative approaches to energy efficiency and enables DER developers of distributed energy resources to make investment decisions. It will also help community planning and community choice aggregation proposals.

Today’s order also requires that:

- Utilities must provide more information and take other steps to encourage the development of DER, demand-management and other energy-saving initiatives (“non-wires alternatives”) rather than constructing substations or other infrastructure to meet future energy needs;
- Utilities must do more to create online portals to provide information to help DER developers and projects to interconnect with the electric grid; and,
- Utilities must improve hosting capacity maps and similar information

Today’s decision may be obtained by going to the Commission Documents section of the Commission’s Web site at www.dps.ny.gov and entering Case Number 14-M-0101 in the input box labeled "Search for Case/Matter Number". Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission documents may also be obtained from the Commission’s Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500). If you have difficulty understanding English, please call us at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this press release.

About Reforming the Energy Vision

Reforming the Energy Vision is Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s strategy to lead on climate change and grow New York’s economy. REV is building a cleaner, more resilient and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers by stimulating investment in clean technologies like solar, wind, and energy efficiency and generating 50 percent of the state’s electricity needs from renewable energy by 2030. Already, REV has driven 750 percent growth in the statewide solar market, enabled over 105,000 low-income households to permanently cut their energy bills with energy efficiency, and created thousands of jobs in manufacturing, engineering, and other clean tech sectors. REV is ensuring New York State reduces statewide greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and achieves the internationally-recognized target of reducing emissions 80 percent by 2050. To learn more about REV, including the Governor’s \$5 billion investment in clean energy technology and innovation, please visit www.ny.gov/REV4NY and follow us at @Rev4NY.