



August 27, 2015

TO:

Honorable Kathleen H. Burgess
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3
Albany, New York 12223-1350
secretary@dps.ny.gov

FROM:

Katie Bolcar Rever
Director, State Affairs
Solar Energy Industries Association
Phone: 202-841-7599
Email: krever@seia.org

**RE: Case 15-E-0407 - Petition of Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. For Relief
Regarding Its Obligation to Purchase Net Metered Generation Under Public Service
law §66-j.**

Dear Secretary Burgess,

Please find the Solar Energy Industries Association's Comments in opposition of Orange and Rocklands Utilities' petition for rate design changes in the above matter.

Sincerely,
/s/ Katie Bolcar Rever
Katie Bolcar Rever
Director, State Affairs
Solar Energy Industries Association
Phone: 202-841-7599
Email: krever@seia.org

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Case 15-E-0407 - Petition of Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. For Relief
Regarding Its Obligation to Purchase Net Metered Generation Under Public Service
Law §66-j**

Dear Secretary Burgess,

SEIA respectfully submits this correspondence in opposition of Orange and Rockland Utilities' ("O&R") petition in the above-referenced proceeding.

Established in 1974, SEIA is the national trade association of the United States solar energy industry and is a broad-based voice of the solar industry in New York. Through advocacy and education, SEIA and its 1,000 member companies are building a strong solar industry to power America. There are 70 SEIA member companies in operation in New York working in all market segments – residential, commercial, and utility-scale. SEIA member companies provide solar panels and equipment, financing, and other services to a large portion of New York solar projects.

On July 14, 2015, O&R petitioned the Public Service Commission (Commission) to either move from net metering (NEM) to a "buy all, sell all" arrangement, or work with O&R to develop a new compensation scheme. O&R's petition is moot and therefore should be rejected.¹

After O&R filed its petition to replace NEM with a buy all sell all arrangement, the Commission ordered that community solar projects be net metered.² Additionally, the Order requires that "[utilities] must continue to accept applications for net metering and

¹ Petition of Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. For Relief Regarding Its Obligation to Purchase Net Metered Generation Under Public Service Law §66-j, July 14, 2015 (Case 15-01526)

² Order Establishing a Community Distributed Generation Program and Making Other Findings, July 17, 2015 (Case 15-E-0082)

process interconnections,” and “advise if a ceiling is in need of revision.”³ The Commission also set up a separate stakeholder process for evaluating the value of distributed energy resources (DER) that addresses the utility’s concerns.⁴ Finally, Staff has recommended that NEM remain in place in its Track Two straw proposal, and that the value of DER should not be assumed until a benefit-cost analysis has been conducted.⁵

For the reasons stated above, SEIA requests that the Commission reject O&R’s petition as moot.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Katie Bolcar Rever
Katie Bolcar Rever
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Solar Energy Industries Association
Phone: 202-841-7599
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³ Id. at 35

⁴ Id. at 33-34

⁵ Staff White Paper on Ratemaking and Utility Business Models, July 28, 2015 (Case 14-M-0101)