



April 15, 2024

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

**Re: Department of Public Service Staff Proposal on Community Distributed Generation Performance Metrics and Negative Revenue Adjustments (Case 19-M-0463)**

Dear Secretary Phillips:

Advanced Energy United submits for filing the attached comments in response to the Department of Public Service Staff Proposal on Community Distributed Generation Billing and Crediting Performance Metrics and Negative Revenue Adjustments in Case No. 19-M-0463, filed on January 16, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Shawn Kelly

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Director, Advanced Energy United

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# Advanced Energy United Comments

## **Re: Department of Public Service Staff Proposal on Community Distributed Generation Performance Metrics and Negative Revenue Adjustments (Case 19-M-0463)**

### Introduction

Advanced Energy United (“United”) supports the Department of Public Service (“DPS”) Staff Proposal on Community Distributed Generation (“CDG”) Performance Metrics and Negative Revenue Adjustments (“NRAs”). United is a national association of businesses that works to accelerate the move to 100% clean energy and electrified transportation in the U.S. The term advanced energy encompasses a broad range of products and services that constitute the best available technologies for meeting our energy needs today and tomorrow. These include electric vehicles, energy efficiency, demand response, energy storage, solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, and smart grid technologies. United represents more than 100 companies in the \$374 billion U.S. advanced energy industry, which employs 3.2 million U.S. workers, including 157,000 individuals in the Empire State.

### Support for Staff Proposal

United supports the DPS Staff proposal to provide the New York utilities a strong incentive to properly administer community solar programs and issue timely and accurate credits to solar customers.

Community solar can be a powerful tool for expanding access to the benefits of clean energy. This expanded access is particularly important for low- to moderate-income (“LMI”) households and residents of disadvantaged communities (“DACs”) who may not have the means to install clean energy at their home.

Timely and accurate application of credits is a crucial feature of a successful community solar program. It is imperative for utilities to apply community solar credits to community solar



participants' monthly bills, so they see the benefits directly associated with their monthly energy consumption.

New York's utilities are not fulfilling their responsibility to apply solar credits in a timely and accurate manner. The result of the utilities' negligence is that customers receive multiple months of credits on a single bill which greatly exceeds the amount of energy they used in that given billing period. Since this situation results in a customer having to pay for community solar credits far in excess of their monthly energy usage, this negative customer experience often leads to customers forgoing their participation in the community solar project. The utilities' failure to apply bill credits in a timely and accurate manner is therefore undermining the success of New York's community solar program.

United supports the DPS Staff Proposal on CDG Performance Metrics and NRAs because the proposal appropriately aligns utility incentives with consumer protections. Performance-based regulation ("PBR") creates a financial incentive to structure the utility's long-term profit motive to be contingent on protecting customers and supporting clean energy deployment. This PBR framework could also be applied to other emergent outcomes aligned with New York's clean energy goals.

## **Conclusion**

United encourages the Commission to adopt the CDG Performance Metrics and NRAs proposed by DPS Staff to more appropriately align utility incentives with long-term customer benefit and consumer protection. This PBR proposal for CDG is an important step that will ensure that utilities provide adequate service to solar customers and support progress toward New York's ambitious clean energy and equity goals. Thank you for your consideration.

