

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Case No. 20-0789-INV

Vermont Public Utility Commission orders and memoranda issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic	
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**THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE’S COMMENTS REGARDING
A POTENTIAL EXTENSION OF COMMISSIONING DEADLINES FOR NET-
METERING AND STANDARD OFFER PROJECTS**

On April 30, 2020, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) issued an order requesting comments regarding actions the Commission is considering as a response to the impacts stemming from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the Commission is considering whether to extend the commissioning deadlines, by one year, for all net-metering or standard offer projects whose certificate of public good (“CPG”) is set to expire between March 25, 2020 and December 31, 2020. On March 27, 2020, the Commission had extended all such CPGs due to expire between March 25, 2020 to June 1, 2020, until September 1, 2020. If ordered, any new extension would supersede the Commission’s March 27, 2020 extension.

The Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) supports the adoption of the extension the Commission is considering. Likewise, the Department supports the endorsement of the new extension made by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (“ANR”) in its comments. ANR reports that seasonal restrictions impact the ability of project developers to meet permitting requirements relating to natural resources and environmental concerns. Similarly, the Department understands that construction moratoriums, COVID-19 related disruptions to project component supply chains, and broader economic instability have frustrated many projects’ ability to meet its CPG requirements in a timely manner. This is expected to continue. While the total impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic remain uncertain, they are frequently severe. A one-year CPG extension would afford

Vermont's renewable energy industry some flexibility and certainty while still affording the Commission the discretion to administer the net-metering and standard offer programs as additional information becomes available. As such, the Department supports extending all standard offer and net-metering CPGs set to expire between March 25 and December 31, 2020 by one year.

Dated in Stowe, Vermont on this 13th day of May 2020.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alex Wing
Alexander Wing, Special Counsel
Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

cc: ePUC Service List