

# **STATE OF CONNECTICUT** PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

#### DOCKET NO. 24-08-02RE01

# ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM REVIEW - YEAR 2024 - CONTRACTOR EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT

#### NOTICE OF PROCEEDING

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Authority or PURA) initiates an annual docket to carry out enforcement activities regarding the Residential Tariff Program established in Docket No. 20-07-01, later re-named the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (RRES) Program. <u>See</u> Interim Decision, Feb. 10, 2021, Docket No. 20-07-01, <u>PURA Implementation of Section 3 of Public Act 19-35, Renewable Energy Tariffs and Procurement Plans, pp. 27-28.</u>

In its November 1, 2023 Decision in Docket No. 23-08-02, <u>Annual Residential</u> <u>Renewable Energy Solutions Program Review – Year 3</u> (Year 3 Decision), the Authority provided further guidance on auditing RRES customer disclosure forms, enabled EOE to audit an RRES contractor's Financial Benefits Summary Sheet and Sheet Narrative and request additional documentation or evidence to verify the Financial Benefits Summary Sheet calculations, and directed EOE to review RRES contractor marketing materials and file a written summary of any marketing materials EOE deems deceptive or misleading to RRES customers. Year 3 Decision, pp. 26-27.

Accordingly, the above-captioned proceeding is necessary to: (1) address any complaints brought to the Authority's attention during calendar year 2025 regarding the RRES Program, including any material defects in customer disclosure forms received by the electric distribution companies;<sup>1</sup> (2) enable EOE to conduct its review of a sample of marketing materials from RRES contractors and file a written report as directed in the Year 3 Decision; and (3) provide an administrative record regarding renewable energy contractor and developer questions.

The Authority is conducting this uncontested proceeding pursuant to the Interim Decision and General Statutes §§ 16-19, 16-19e, and 16-244z. Additional information is available at the Authority's website: <u>http://www.ct.gov/pura/</u> regarding the procedural practices of the Authority. All of the filings in this docket are available on the Authority's website under the "Docket Information" link. Persons may register to receive e-mail

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> EOE will annually audit the customer disclosure forms submitted by renewable energy contractors / developers to the EDCs through the Residential Tariff Program, as modified by the Authority in its November 1, 2023 Decision in Docket No. 23-08-02, <u>Annual Residential Renewable Energy Solutions</u> <u>Program Review – Year 3</u>, p. 26. (Year 3 Decision). <u>See</u> Interim Decision, p. 27; Year 3 Decision, p. 26. As necessary, EOE will address any material defects discovered in auditing the forms submitted in program Year 4 (2024) through this docket.

notifications when documents are filed or issued in this docket. For assistance with any Authority online service, contact the PURA case coordinator assigned to this docket, Laura Lupoli via email at laura.lupoli@ct.gov.

The Authority hereby delegates the review of this matter to its Office of Education, Outreach and Enforcement (EOE) pursuant to General Statutes § 16-19j. The delegation of this docket to EOE is intended to provide ratepayers and parties that interact with the Authority an improved customer service experience by allowing trained EOE staff to interact directly with parties. Notably, the prohibition against ex parte communications is waived between EOE staff and the public or regulated entities. Although EOE staff are prohibited from speaking on behalf of the Authority or speculating regarding the Authority's ultimate disposition of a matter, EOE staff may use their training and expertise to answer questions and facilitate the completion of applications. However, the prohibition on ex parte communications remains in effect between EOE staff and PURA decisional staff, and between PURA decisional staff and the applicants and any other parties in this proceeding. In the event the matter requires adjudication, the EOE will be afforded all rights and obligations ascribed to participants in the proceeding. The EOE point of contact assigned to this docketed matter is **Thomas M. Lopez, who can be reached at thomas.lopez@ct.gov.** 

For matters in which no objections are registered by docket participants and for which the EOE is recommending a favorable disposition of the matter, the EOE shall file a Proposed Final Decision in the docket outlining its findings and recommendations. The Proposed Final Decision submitted by the EOE will be voted on by a panel of commissioners at the next available Regular Meeting. For matters in which an objection has been submitted or for which the EOE is recommending an unfavorable disposition, the EOE shall file a Proposed Draft Decision in the docket and the matter will be transferred to PURA decisional staff for adjudication.

#### PARTICIPANTS TO THE PROCEEDING

The Authority has designated the Participants in Docket No. 23-08-02RE01, <u>Annual Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program Review – Year 2023 –</u> <u>Contractor Education and Enforcement</u>, as Participants to this proceeding. Conn. Agencies Reg. § 16-1-15 requires Participants to serve a copy of each filed document to every person or entity on the service list, which is available on the Authority's website at <u>http://www.ct.gov/pura</u>. In addition, all Participants are required to provide two (2) copies of all materials submitted in this docket directly to the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC). Those copies should be addressed directly to the OCC, not the Authority.

#### ATTORNEYS

Attorneys not admitted to practice law before the Connecticut superior court must comply with Connecticut's <u>pro hac vice procedures</u> in order to participate in any administrative proceeding before the Authority.

#### **REQUEST FOR PARTICIPANT STATUS**

Other persons seeking Participant status in this proceeding must file a motion in accordance with General Statutes § 16-19pp no later than **December 20, 2024**, before 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. Each person seeking Participant status may designate up to two persons for inclusion on the service list. Others who wish to receive e-mail notifications, but do not seek official status in the matter, may register on the PURA website for an e-mail notification account at <u>http://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/DPUCPublicList.NSF</u>.

#### MOTIONS

Any person seeking a procedural change or other Authority approval must file a motion with the Authority. Motions must be served on the service list for this proceeding. Motions for extension of time shall be filed in advance of the prescribed deadline and should provide sufficient time for the Authority to consider timely objections and to rule on the motion. Objections and responses to all other motions are due no later than seven (7) calendar days following Authority receipt.

#### **ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF FILINGS**

Unless otherwise specified, the Authority requires electronic submission of all filings, including applications and motions, using the Authority's online filing system (links and instructions at <u>http://www.ct.gov/pura</u>). Persons filing electronically or wishing to be listed as a contact must first create an account through the Authority's website under Docket Services (Make a Filing). Unless otherwise specified, filings are to be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. of the due date.

#### CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

The Authority operates with the strong presumption that all documents filed with it are public records subject to the right of public inspection and copying in accordance with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, General Statutes § 1-200 et seg (FOIA). In those exceptional circumstances where a Participant believes that information is confidential under law, a Motion for a Protective Order requesting an exemption from public disclosure may be filed. The Motion must provide specific legal arguments with reference to state or federal law describing with supporting facts why the information should be kept confidential. A certified affidavit supplied by a competent witness must also be filed in support of the Motion. Until otherwise directed by the Authority, all confidential material must be submitted electronically by email to Jeff.Gaudiosi@ct.gov contemporaneously with the motion. The email's subject line shall state in all capital letters "CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE." Each page of any electronic confidential information shall also contain a header "CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE." The associated motion for a protective order shall be filed publicly.

The Authority previously issued a docket notice in Docket No. 23-08-02RE01, <u>Annual Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program Review – Year 2023–</u> <u>Contractor Education and Enforcement</u> (Notice), which set forth whether certain information is or is not entitled to protective treatment under FOIA and indicated which documents in that proceeding could be filed with or without limited redactions. Notice, Aug. 28, 2024.<sup>2</sup> For administrative efficiency, the Authority permits parties to preemptively redact confidential information from filed documents that are in accordance with the direction provided in the Notice. Any party preemptively redacting a filed document shall comply with all requirements of the preceding paragraph, including submitting an unredacted version of the document to <u>Jeff.Gaudiosi@ct.qov</u> and filing a motion for a protective order with an accompanying certified affidavit. The Authority reserves the right to order any necessary revisions to the redactions without limitation by time. Although the Authority may not issue a formal ruling granting the motion, a party or intervenor that has complied with the foregoing may proceed as if the motion was granted, unless an order for revisions, motion denial, or other contrary instruction is received from the Authority.

## **EX PARTE COMMUNICATION PROHIBITED**

Please be advised that, even though this is an uncontested matter, the Authority strictly observes General Statutes § 4-181, which prohibits ex parte communication. As such, there may be no communication, direct or indirect, with Commissioners or the Authority's decisional staff on any issue of fact or law pertaining to this matter unless that communication takes place in the course of a noticed hearing or meeting, or is made in writing and submitted in the docket with copies supplied to all other designated Participants. Communication with the PURA's case coordinator regarding scheduling is permitted.

## **REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATION**

DEEP is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint or require some other accommodation, including equipment to facilitate virtual participation, please contact the DEEP Office of Diversity and Equity at (860) 418-5910 or via email at <u>deep.accommodations@ct.gov</u>. Any person needing an accommodation for hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number, 7-1-1. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The docket notice is available at: <u>23-08-02RE01 Docket Notice Regarding Confidential Filings.pdf</u> (state.ct.us)

Dated at New Britain, Connecticut this 1st day of October, 2024.

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Jeffrey R. Gaudiosi, Esq. Executive Secretary