

UPDATED GUIDELINES REGARDING NOTICE INFORMATION FOR A THIRD PARTY RENEWABLE POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT

A. Purpose.

The Commission is establishing these guidelines pursuant to Chapter 382 of the 2013 Virginia Acts of Assembly ("Chapter 382") regarding a pilot program for third party power purchase agreements for renewable generation. Chapter 382 specifically provides that the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") must establish guidelines concerning (i) information to be provided in written notices and (ii) procedures for collecting and posting information derived from such notices on the Commission's website. In addition, the Commission may establish general guidelines for its administration of the pilot program.

B. Applicability.

These guidelines are applicable to any owner or operator of a solar-powered or wind-powered electric generation facility (referred to herein as "owner-operator") located on premises owned or leased by an eligible customer-generator, as defined in § 56-594 of the Code of Virginia, within the certificated service territory of an investor-owned electric utility ("Pilot Utility").¹ Such a facility shall have a generation capacity of 50 kW to 1 MW, except that if the eligible customer-generator served by the owner-operator is an entity with tax-exempt status in accordance with § 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, then such facility is not limited by the 50 kW minimum, and can qualify with a generation capacity range of 1 kW to 1 MW. An eligible facility shall provide electricity to only one customer.

¹ As described in Chapter 382, the Pilot Utility is an investor-owned electric utility that was bound by a rate case settlement adopted by the Commission that extended in its application beyond January 1, 2002. The utility is Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia-Power. Pursuant to Chapter 803 of the 2017 Virginia Acts of Assembly, this pilot program is expanded to include -an investor-owned electric utility that was not bound by a rate case settlement adopted by the Commission that extended in its application beyond January 1, 2002, identified as Appalachian Power Company, and that such expansion expires on July 1, 2022.

The owner-operator shall be permitted to sell the electricity generated from such facility exclusively to such eligible customer-generator under a power purchase agreement to provide such eligible customer-generator third party financing of the costs of such a renewable generation facility. The owner-operator also may be subject to any requirements of its local governing body and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The pilot program limitation of 50 MW for Dominion Energy Virginia includes participation among jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional customers, and the limitation of 7 MW for Appalachian Power Company targets participation among nonprofit, private institutions of higher education.

C. Filing of Notice.

Any party who intends to enter into a third-party power purchase agreement under the pilot program must provide written notice to the Commission and to the Pilot Utility of the party's intent to enter into such agreement not less than 30 calendar days before the effective date of such agreement.

D. Contents of Filing.

The owner-operator shall provide written notice to the Commission and the Pilot Utility not less than 30 calendar days before the effective date of such agreement and shall include the following information:

- Identity of the owner-operator of the renewable electric generation facility;
- The name, address, and under seal as "confidential" or "extraordinarily sensitive" information, the Pilot Utility electric account number of the eligible customer-generator;

the Pilot Utility. Within three business days of receiving such written notice of the placed in service date, the Commission Staff shall post to its website the cumulative amount of installed solar-powered generation capacity and, separately, the cumulative amount of wind-powered generation capacity, expressed in kW or MW (AC). Simultaneously, the capacity remaining available for future pilot projects also shall be posted. The owner-operator also shall provide written notice to the Commission and the Pilot Utility of any change to the generating capacity of the facility or of the parties to the third party power purchase agreement within three business days of any such change.

On an annual basis, the Pilot Utility shall submit to the Commission under seal as "confidential" or "extraordinarily sensitive" information, a report of the individual and aggregated amount of energy generated (kWhs) and peak capacity (kW) provided from all pilot renewable generation facilities combined, with separate totals for wind pilot projects and solar pilot projects. The Pilot Utility's report also shall identify and quantify any system benefits, such as but not limited to, transmission and distribution system benefits, line loss savings, generation capacity savings, wholesale energy purchase offsets, fuel cost savings, and any economic development and job creation benefits across the region or the Commonwealth.

Subsequent to the Pilot Utility's report, the Commission Staff shall aggregate and post to its website the following information obtained from such report and any information filed by owner-operators, with separate data for wind-powered and solar-powered projects:

- Average projected installation costs of projects in the pilot program, in dollars per Watt (AC);
- Average duration of the third party purchase agreements;
- Total number of customer-generators participating in the pilot program;

- Total number of owner-operators participating in the pilot program; and
- The city and/or county location of projects in the pilot program that have been placed in service.

F. Program Cap Management.

The owner-operator shall fulfill the following requirements and provide written confirmation to the Commission and the Pilot Utility that it has met each requirement:

- The owner-operator must provide a written notice of intent as described in Section C of these guidelines;
- The owner-operator must (i) confirm that it is a party to a fully executed third party power purchase agreement under the pilot program, and (ii) provide the effective date of such agreement, all within 3 business days of such agreement's execution;
- Within 90 calendar days of filing the written notice of intent, the owner-operator must confirm that more than 5% of projected pilot costs have been incurred under a binding written contract as per the Section 461(h) economic performance definitions of the U.S. Treasury Safe Harbor Rules, or that all local permitting and zoning approvals have been secured;
- Within 180 calendar days of filing the written notice of intent, the owner-operator must confirm that more than 25% of pilot projected pilot costs have been incurred under a binding written contract as per the Section 461(h) economic performance definitions of the U.S. Treasury Safe Harbor Rules; and
- Within 270 calendar days of filing the written notice of intent, the owner-operator must confirm that the project has been "placed in service," as that term is used in 26 U.S.C. § 48.

Upon receipt of the required confirmations, the Commission Staff shall post to its website the following for informational purposes:

- Date of notice of intent;
- Date of fully executed agreement;
- Effective date of agreement;
- Placed in service date of the renewable generation facility;
- Installed capacity of the renewable generation facility, with separate data for wind-powered and solar-powered projects; and
- Available capacity remaining under the 50 MW limit for Dominion Energy Virginia and available capacity remaining under the 7 MW limit for Appalachian Power Company.

The Commission shall review the pilot program in 2015, and every two years thereafter during the existence of the program, to determine whether the statutory limitations on the capacity of generation facilities included in the program should be continued, expanded, or reduced. Before recommending any changes to such statutory limitations, the Commission may solicit input from all interested parties.