



September 5, 2018

Via Electronic Mail

Ms. Grace Strom Power  
Chief of Staff  
NJ Board of Public Utilities  
44 Clinton Ave. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

RE: Summary of Comments/Presentation for the Clean and Reliable Power Meeting –  
September 7, 2018.

Dear Ms. Power:

Please accept this summary on behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition (MAREC) for the above-listed meeting. I am Bruce Burcat, the Executive Director of MAREC and I plan to speak at the meeting on behalf of the organization. MAREC appreciates the opportunity the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Board or BPU) has afforded to provide this summary, as well as our oral presentation to be made on September 7, 2018. We also plan to submit more comprehensive comments on the New Jersey Energy Master Plan (EMP) by October 12, 2018, as per the Notice for the EMP Stakeholder Meetings.

MAREC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that was formed to help advance the opportunities for renewable energy development in a substantial portion of the region where the Regional Transmission Organization, PJM Interconnection, LLC operates, including New Jersey. MAREC's membership consists of utility-scale wind (including offshore wind) and solar developers, wind turbine manufacturers, service companies and nonprofit organizations. MAREC members are

committed to the growth in renewable energy technologies in New Jersey to support economic development and enhance environmental quality. MAREC plans to engage in the EMP process to provide support for Governor Murphy's plan to convert New Jersey's energy production profile to 100% clean energy.

### **Summary of Public Comments**

MAREC supports Governor Murphy's goal of moving away from reliance on fossil fuels as New Jersey's primary source of energy. A commitment to clean energy is the cornerstone of a policy to avoid the effects of global warming and other harmful emissions. MAREC believes that a future of renewable energy coupled with energy storage by 2050 is achievable and will not only help protect New Jersey from global warming but continue to lead New Jersey forward as a state that is investing in its green economy; thus, bringing jobs, manufacturing and a new offshore wind industry to the State. This vision includes New Jersey as a major hub for the offshore wind and solar energy industries. Conversion to clean energy from fossil fuels will also require reliance on significant purchases of utility-scale solar and onshore wind from the PJM region to meet the goals of 50% and 100% clean energy. The following is a summary of the oral comments I plan to deliver for Friday's public hearing.

- Clean energy should be defined as renewable energy; 100% carbon free resources and are truly renewable in the sense that they do not deplete. These are sources like solar, wind and geothermal energy.
- We think the state has already begun to transition to clean energy production through the enactment of the 50% RPS bill. New Jersey has taken some key steps by moving its targets to 50% renewable, including 3500 MW of offshore wind by 2030.
- One area of critical importance is to continue to allow PJM wind to help meet the 50% and later 100% goals.
- A clarification to existing law should be made to allow PJM solar to participate in the Class I REC market. Currently, the BPU does not permit this to occur. We would consider this an obstacle to getting to 100% because the viable land mass and costs for solar would not support the objective of 100% clean energy by 2050.

- We agree with the RPS legislation's study requirement and targets for energy storage will play a major part as the RPS requirements expand in later years to help solar and wind to integrate efficiently and affordably into the grid. The cost of storage will continue to reduce as the technology is deployed and becomes more efficient and reaches scale.
- The State should continue its supportive policy of increasing the RPS requirements on its path to meeting the Governor's clean energy goals. RPS laws have been a very effective tool in achieving renewable energy growth, especially in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- To reduce prices for customers and the reliance on only short-term energy procurements, New Jersey should require that a portion of its Basic Generation Service (BGS) be obtained through competitively procured, bundled long-term contracts of renewable energy and renewable energy credits.
- Energy storage and increasing transmission build-out to support renewable energy integration are important policies to ensure a reliable grid in the future to achieve a 100% clean energy target. The phasing-out of fossil fuel resources will result as New Jersey moves forward with a plan to reach its 100% clean energy target.
- Solar and wind energy are complementary resources that can power the electric grid of the future. To transition to that future, the State should consider policies to increase support for electric vehicles, which can be powered by the growing levels of these renewable resources.
- Time of use rates can also be an effective tool as we transition to the 100% clean energy goal. Electric vehicles charging during the evening and night while wind power from offshore developments and the PJM grid would help reduce emissions but also provide ratepayers a way of keeping costs down while the market is transitioning.
- Developing offshore wind and solar markets will be the key to strong economic development by creating good paying jobs and could potentially land New Jersey huge supply chain manufacturing opportunities.



Again, MAREC appreciates the opportunity to be heard. We support the EMP process as outlined in the Board Notice for the public hearings. The process is transparent and will allow for substantial public input.

Sincerely,



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