

**MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION**

**REPORT ON GREEN POWER
OPTIONS**

**Presented to the
Utilities and Energy Committee
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION3

II. COMMISSION PROCEEDING3

III. PROGRAM OUTCOME4

I. INTRODUCTION

During the 2007 session, the Legislature enacted an Act To Stimulate Demand for Renewable Energy (Act).¹ Section 8 of the Act adds a “green power options” section to the statutes (codified at 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3212-A) that states in part:

Beginning July 1, 2008, information regarding the availability of green power supply products and renewable energy credit products that are certified by the commission may, at the option of the provider of the products and with the cooperation of the transmission and distribution utility, be presented through inserts in customer bills issued by transmission and distribution utilities. The costs of the inserts, including but not limited to printing and postage costs, are the responsibility of the provider of the product. The commission may define the criteria for certification of green power supply products and renewable energy credit products by order or by rule, and the commission may limit the criteria for certification for consumer protection and eligibility verification purposes.

Section 9 of the Act directs the Commission to provide a report to the Utilities and Energy Committee by January 31, 2010 on green power options that have been certified and promoted through utility bill inserts.

II. COMMISSION PROCEEDING

In response to the Act, the Commission, on April 23, 2008, initiated an inquiry to obtain information to implement the green power options provision of the Act.² In response to the Notice of Inquiry, Central Maine Power Company, Bangor Hydro-Electric Company, and Maine Public Service Company indicated a willingness to cooperate subject to certain conditions. Certain suppliers stated that they might be interested in using utility bill inserts depending on the cost and process. Others suggested that portions of the supplier page be made available to avoid printing and postage costs, or that the supplier page could reference a “power shopping website.”

Several commenters suggested that the issues be addressed through the establishment of a working group. Commission Staff agreed and, on July 2, 2008, issued a Notice of Establishment of Working Group that invited interested persons to participate in a working group. The working group came to a basic consensus on utility terms and conditions and a standard contract for a bill insert program; criteria for Commission certification of green products; and the use of

¹ P.L. 2007, ch 403.

² *Inquiry Into the Use of Utility Bill Inserts to Promote Green Power Products*, (Docket No. 2008-178).

the supplier page of the bills to reference a green power website. The Commission agreed with the Working Group recommendations and, on April 14, 2009, issued an order adopting a program for the promotion of green supply products and renewable energy credit products through utility bill inserts and through reference to a green power website to be included on the standard offer portion of utility bills. In its Order, the Commission certified the following products to participate in the utility bill insert program:

- Electricity supply from renewable resources as defined in Maine statute, 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3210-C(1)(E);
- Green-e certified RECs; and
- NEPOOL GIS certificates that correspond to renewable resources as defined in Maine statute, 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3210-C(1)(E).

III. PROGRAM OUTCOME

To date, no green power supplier has chosen to take advantage of the utility bill insert program. The Commission notes that the green power options section of the statute (35-A M.R.S.A. §3212-A) is repealed on July 1, 2010.³

³ 35-A M.R.S.A. §3212-A(3)