

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2014-00024

January 8, 2015

MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Request for Proposals of Long-Term
Contracts under M.R.S. 3210-C Pertaining
to Central Maine Power and Emera Maine

ORDER APPROVING TERM
SHEETS (PART ONE)

WELCH, Chairman¹; LITTELL and VANNOY, Commissioners

Through this Part One Order, we approve the term sheets for long-term contracts for the capacity and associated energy for two projects located in Maine; the Weaver Wind Project, a 99 MW facility proposed to be located in Hancock County and the Highland Wind Project, a 44 MW facility proposed to be located in Somerset County.^{2 3} A detailed description of the background, analyses and reasoning underlying this decision will be provided in the Part Two Order to issue subsequently.

The Commission approves the attached term sheets for Weaver Wind and Highland Wind, respectively, because we find that both proposals satisfy all of the policy goals outlined in section 3210-C(2) and are the most advantageous of those received under the prioritization criteria outlines in section 3210-C(4). These projects present a sufficient likelihood of providing ratepayer benefits over the term of the agreement to outweigh the risk inherent in long-term contracting. We find that these projects provide benefits to ratepayers across the widest range of future scenarios, and present relatively low risk exposure to ratepayers. Additionally, the projects present new renewable capacity resource located in Maine and would create no net emission of greenhouse gases. See 35-A M.R.S. § 3210-C(4).

¹ Chairman Welch took part in this decision during a Deliberation Session held on December 16, 2014 in which the Commission voted two to one in favor of approving these two term sheets. Chairman Welch retired from the Commission on December 31, 2014 and was replaced as Chairman by Commissioner Vannoy.

² Commissioner Vannoy dissented in this decision.

³ The Weaver Wind Project is being undertaken by Weaver Wind LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of First Wind holdings, LLC. The Highland Wind Project is being undertaken by NextEra Energy Resources LLC.

Accordingly, we

ORDER

1. That one or more of Maine's investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities enter into long-term contract(s) for capacity and energy with Weaver Wind LLC for the output of Weaver Wind and NextEra Energy Resources LLC for the output of Highland Wind;

and,

2. That the transmission and distribution utility/utilities actively participate in good faith in the long-term contracting process with Weaver Wind LLC, NextEra Energy Resources LLC and Staff.

Dated at Hallowell, Maine, this 8th day of January 2015.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

/s/Harry Lanphear

Harry Lanphear
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
Littell

COMMISSIONERS VOTING AGAINST: Vannoy

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 11(D) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R. 110) within **20** days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought. Any petition not granted within **20** days from the date of filing is denied.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within **21** days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.