

STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

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March 1, 2004

Re: Case 03-E-0188 – Proceeding on Motion of the Commission
Regarding a Retail Renewable Portfolio Standard

TO ACTIVE PARTIES:

Several parties have inquired, formally and informally, about the procedure to be followed as the second phase Staff cost study is being released. As you know, Volume A of the Staff Cost Study, showing cost and other consequences of a prime case and incorporating all methodological assumptions and approaches, was released February 19, 2004; a revised version was released on February 27, 2004. Volume A included an exhaustive description of what Volume B will contain, results from variations based upon assumptions on RPS design other than those in the prime case. Staff and consultants are preparing Volume B now for release as soon as possible.

Parties may propose schedules for discussion of the studies immediately, on the assumption that Volume B will essentially consist of outcomes resulting from changing the assumptions in Volume A. Because a productive technical conference should, ideally, include Robert Grace, I am setting aside March 17, 2004, a date he is available, to hold such a conference at the Commission's Albany offices. I will not formally set a date, however, until Volume B has been released. I am also considering dates for one round of parties' supplemental comments as to cost study issues. Parties may suggest a schedule for completion of the examination of the cost studies by March 8, 2004. Parties concerned to have sufficient time to review Volume B may suggest a schedule beginning a certain number of days after its release.

Parties have also inquired about serving interrogatories on the proponents of the cost study. Parties are encouraged to do so, and the interrogatories received from parties will be a great help in organizing an agenda for the technical conference and ensuring that it is productive. Staff will pool the interrogatories, categorize them, and then respond at the technical conference. This will provide an on-the-record response to all of the parties and an opportunity for follow-up questions.

Eleanor Stein
Administrative Law Judge