

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7873

Programmatic Changes to the Standard-Offer Program )

Docket 7874

Investigation into the Establishment of Standard-Offer )

Prices under the Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise )

Development ("SPEED") Program )

Order entered: 5/29/2015

**ORDER RE 2015 STANDARD-OFFER AWARD GROUP  
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT**

**I. Introduction**

On May 1, 2015, the Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise Development ("SPEED") Facilitator received 24 proposals in response to the 2015 Request For Proposals ("RFP") under the standard-offer program.

In this Order, the Vermont Public Service Board ("Board") finds ten projects to be eligible to participate in the Developer Block of the standard-offer program and authorizes the SPEED Facilitator to enter into standard-offer contracts with these projects.<sup>1</sup> In addition, we find two projects to be eligible to participate in the Provider Block of the standard-offer program and authorize the SPEED Facilitator to enter into standard-offer contracts with these projects. We also seek comment regarding the proposal for a food waste anaerobic digestion project.

**II. Discussion**

On April 1, 2015, the SPEED Facilitator issued an RFP to solicit standard-offer projects to meet the requirements of 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(c). The available annual capacity in 2015 was 4.5 MW for the Developer Block and 0.5 MW for the Provider Block. In addition, 1.5 MW of

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1. The Developer Block is capacity reserved for proposals made by private developers while the Provider Block is capacity reserved for proposals made by Vermont retail electric utilities. See 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(c)(1)(B).

the 4.5 MW of the Developer Block was set aside for small wind plants (wind power with a capacity less than or equal to 100 kW) and for food waste anaerobic digestion plants.<sup>2</sup> Under the 1.5 MW technology set-aside, each technology received a 500 kW minimum allocation and a maximum allocation of 1 MW. The Board ruled that the additional 500 kW in the technology set-aside not specifically reserved for either category would be allocated based on the bid price of the projects. Any unused capacity in the 1.5 MW technology set-aside would be reallocated based on price to any remaining 2015 RFP proposals in the Developer Block.

On May 1, 2015, the SPEED Facilitator received proposals in response to the RFP. On May 15, 2015, the SPEED Facilitator filed with the Board a report detailing the RFP results. Proposals totaling approximately 27.1 MW in plant capacity were received for the Developer Block, consisting of twelve proposed solar projects, eight small wind projects, one hydroelectric project, and one food waste anaerobic digestion project. Proposals totaling approximately 1 MW in plant capacity were received in the RFP process for the Provider Block, which included two solar projects.

### Developer Block

#### *Technology Set-Aside*

Eight proposals were received for small wind projects totaling 652 kW in plant capacity and one proposal was received for a food waste anaerobic digestion project, 300 kW in size. The following is a list of the received proposals.

Developer	Project Name	Location	Size (kW)	Price (\$/kWh)
<i>Small Wind Projects</i>				
PLH, LLC	Highgate Wind 1	Highgate Center	100	\$0.2520
PLH, LLC	Highgate Wind 2	Highgate Center	100	\$0.2520
PLH, LLC	Highgate Wind 3	Highgate Center	100	\$0.2520
PLH, LLC	Highgate Wind 4	Highgate Center	100	\$0.2520
Star Wind Turbines, LLC	Tesla Wind	East Dorset	36	\$0.2530

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2. See Order Re: 2015 Technology Allocation, Dockets 7873 and 7874, Order of 2/17/15.

Star Wind Turbines, LLC	Baily Hill Wind	Readsboro	24	\$0.2530
Star Wind Turbines, LLC	Danby Wind	Danby	96	\$0.2530
Jason A. Day	Hedgehog Hill Wind B	Mt. Holly	96	\$0.2530
<i>Food Waste Anaerobic Digestion Projects</i>				
Brattleboro Organic Energy, LLC	Brattleboro Organic Energy	Brattleboro	300	\$0.2080

In accordance with the Board Order issued in these Dockets on February 17, 2015, the eligible standard-offer projects proposed in response to the RFP will be selected based on the bid price, with projects being ranked from lowest to highest price, until the award group fills the available technology set-aside for small wind projects. Less than 0.5 MW of plant capacity was received for food waste anaerobic digestion plants in response to the RFP; accordingly, 1.0 MW of plant capacity is available for small wind projects. As the amount of small wind projects falls within the available set-aside capacity, we hereby authorize the SPEED Facilitator to enter into contracts for these eight small wind projects.

With regard to the technology set-aside for food waste anaerobic digestion projects, the Brattleboro Organic Energy project is proposed to be located at the Brattleboro Landfill and is proposed to use the same electrical generation facilities as an existing standard-offer project, the BCH Landfill Gas to Energy ("BCH") project. As represented in the received proposal, the project will share electrical and interconnection facilities with the BCH project, including using the existing BCH 300 kW generator.

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8005a(b), in order to be eligible for a standard offer, a plant must be a "renewable energy plant." Pursuant to Section 8002(14), a "plant" means:

an independent technical facility that generates electricity from renewable energy. A group of newly constructed facilities, such as wind turbines, shall be considered one plant if the group is part of the same project and uses common equipment and infrastructure such as roads, control facilities, and connections to the electric grid.

Section 3.2 of the 2015 RFP identifies mandatory requirements that a proposal must satisfy to be considered in the RFP evaluation process. Section 3.2.1 requires that a proposed project must not "already be selling its output to VEPP Inc. or Vermont distribution utilities."

The Board requests comment on whether the proposed Brattleboro Organic Energy project is eligible for a standard-offer contract pursuant to Section 8002(14) and Section 3.2.1 of the 2015 RFP. In particular, the Board requests that comments address: (1) whether Brattleboro

Organic Energy and BCH are separate plants pursuant to Section 8002(14); and (2) assuming they constitute one plant, whether these proposed projects are eligible for two standard-offer contracts and meet the requirements of Section 3.2.1 of the 2015 RFP.

Accordingly, we do not, at this time, authorize the SPEED Facilitator to award a contract to Brattleboro Organic Energy LLC. We note that the resolution will not have an impact on the authorization of standard-offer contracts for other proposals received in the RFP process.

### *Remaining Developer Block*

After allocation of the technology set-aside, approximately 3.5 MW of plant capacity remain in the Developer Block.<sup>3</sup> Twelve proposals for solar projects and one proposal for a hydroelectric plant (Pownal Tannery) were received, totaling 26.15 MW in plant capacity. The following is a list of the proposals, ranked from lowest to highest price.

Developer	Project Name	Location	Size (MW)	Price (\$/kWh)
Triland Partners, LP	Triland BlueWave Pownal	Pownal	2.1	0.1096
Triland Partners, LP	Triland BlueWave Williamstown	Williamstown	2.1	0.1097
Slang Creek Solar, LLC	Slang Creek Solar	Panton	2.1	0.1147
Triland Partners, LP	Triland BlueWave Hartford	Hartford	2.1	0.1168
PLH, LLC	Highgate Solar 1 Project	Highgate Center	2.2	0.1169
PLH, LLC	Cold River Solar 1 Project	Rutland	2.2	0.1169
PLH, PLC	Weybridge Solar 1 Project	Weybridge	2.2	0.1169
Christopher Taylor	Cristofe Luis x Green Power Solutions	Topsham	1.25	0.1225
Hoosic River Hydro, LLC	Pownal Tannery	Pownal	1.1	0.1226
PLH, LLC	Highgate Solar 1 Project (Alternate location)	Highgate Center	2.2	0.1229
PLH, LLC	Weybridge Solar 2 Project	Weybridge	2.2	0.1229
Essex Capital Partners, LLC	Hunt Road Solar	Windsor	2.2	0.1245
PLH, LLC	Cold River Solar 2 Project	Rutland	2.2	0.1249

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3. The available plant capacity would be 3.8 MW if the Brattleboro Organic Energy project is not eligible for a standard-offer contract. However, given the proposals received, the available cap will be filled by only two projects regardless of whether a contract is awarded to Brattleboro Organic Energy.

In accordance with the Board Order issued on March 1, 2013, the eligible standard-offer projects offered in response to the RFP will be selected based on the price offered, with the projects being ranked from lowest to highest price, until the award group fills the available cap.<sup>4</sup> Of the proposals received, the two lowest-cost proposals were submitted by Triland Partners, LP, for the Triland BlueWave Pownal project and for the Triland BlueWave Williamstown project. Accordingly, we authorize the SPEED Facilitator to enter into contracts for these projects.

Additionally, a reserve of no more than 4.5 MW in plant capacity will be created from the proposals with the lowest price that are not part of the RFP award group. Under this ranking system, the projects eligible for the reserve are: (1) Slang Creek Solar and (2) Triland BlueWave Hartford. We authorize the SPEED Facilitator to place these projects in the reserve.

#### Provider Block

Two proposals were received in the Provider Block for solar projects totaling 985 kW in plant capacity. The following is a list of the received proposals.

Developer	Project Name	Location	Size (kW)	Price (\$/kWh)
Vermont Public Power Supply Authority	Lyndonville Solar 1	Lyndonville	485	\$0.1540
Vermont Public Power Supply Authority	Lyndonville Solar 2	Lyndonville	500	\$0.1550

The plant capacity for the Provider Block is 0.5 MW. The Board has previously determined that once the annual capacity cap is approached but not exceeded, the proposal that would cause the size of the award group to exceed the annual capacity cap by no more than 2.2 MW will be included in the award group.<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, we authorize the SPEED Facilitator to enter into standard-offer contracts with these two projects.

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4. See *Order Re Establishment of Standard-Offer Prices and Programmatic Changes to the Standard-Offer Program*, Dockets 7873 and 7874, Order of 3/1/13.

5. Dockets 7873 and 7874, Order of 3/1/13.

**III. Conclusion**

The SPEED Facilitator is authorized to enter into standard-offer contracts for the eight small wind projects and four solar projects identified above. We do not, at this time, authorize the SPEED Facilitator to enter into a contract for the proposal for a food waste anaerobic digestion project. Comments regarding that project's eligibility for a standard-offer contract must be submitted by June 10, 2015.

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

<u>s/James Volz</u>	)	
	)	PUBLIC SERVICE
	)	
<u>s/Margaret Cheney</u>	)	BOARD
	)	
	)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/Sarah Hofmann</u>	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: May 29, 2015

ATTEST: s/Susan M. Hudson  
Clerk of the Board

*NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)*

*Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within thirty days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further order by this Board or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within ten days of the date of this decision and Order.*