



**Department of
Public Service**

Public Service Commission

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Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350
www.dps.ny.gov

March 25, 2020

Re: Case 18-M-0084 - In the Matter of a Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Initiative.

Dear Energy Efficiency and Heat Pump Providers and Interested Market Participants:

The public health crisis being experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting New Yorkers, both personally and professionally, in countless ways. While we remain diligent on ensuring our first priority is the health and safety of New Yorkers, we recognize the situation has and will continue to significantly impact the vast network of private businesses and their employees who support New York's clean energy agenda. The Department of Public Service (Department) is seeking input from the industry as to the impacts being experienced, programmatic modifications and ideas that should be considered to sustain this critical workforce, as well as effective means of communications.

The Department anticipates scheduling a series of Input Sessions focused on the various components of the clean energy industries. The first input session will be held via WebEx and teleconference focused on the workforce supporting Energy Efficiency and Heat Pump programs and initiatives. Details are as follows:

Energy Efficiency and Heat Pump Focused Input Session

Friday, March 27, 2020

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Event address for attendees: <https://nyserda-events.webex.com/nyserda-events/onstage/g.php?MTID=eeb0f8b4b80ce839f586ecdcc47e3d8bb>

Event number: 661 343 201 Event password: Energy2020

Audio conference: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 661 343 201

Given the importance of this topic across the state, the Department is actively coordinating with each of the major electric and gas utilities, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) and the New York Power Authority (NYPA). Each of these entities will be participating in this Input Session and subsequent follow up.

Due to the expected interest in this topic and potential large number of participants, an agenda including a list of targeted questions is attached, which we will use to structure input. We will ask all speakers to identify themselves and limit their suggestions and comments to approximately 2 minutes per response. We will utilize the following order to call upon speakers:

1. Vendors/contractors currently serving energy efficiency and heat pump programs;
2. Other interested stakeholders/members of the public;
3. Utilities/NYSERDA/LIPA/NYPA

Written comments are also invited and can be submitted through the Department's Document Matter Management (DMM) system in Case 18-M-0084, In the Matter of a Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Initiative. Written comments are requested by Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

For additional reference, the following resources may be of use:

- Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.8: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-2028-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>
- Empire State Development has issued guidance on implementing the Executive Order and businesses designated as essential functions: <https://esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026>
- New York State information on COVID-19: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>
- CDC guidelines in order to prevent COVID-19 from spreading: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>.
- New York State on PAUSE: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-pause>

These unprecedented challenges require unprecedented thinking as to how to best support this critical industry in the near term and in the days ahead. The Department remains open for business with Staff effectively functioning in a telecommuting manner. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Department Staff with whom you are accustomed to working, as needed. Additionally, I have designated Ferit Ucar, Senior Advisor, Office of Markets and Innovation to serve as an ombudsman on this topic. Please reach out via email to Ferit.Ucar@dps.ny.gov with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John B. Rhodes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John B. Rhodes
Chair
New York State Public Service Commission

Energy Efficiency and Heat Pump Input Session
March 27, 2020 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
AGENDA

I. Introduction:

John Rhodes, Chair, New York State Public Service Commission

II. Current Status of New York's Energy Efficiency & Heat Pump Programs:

Peggie Neville, Deputy Director, Office of Markets & Innovation, NYS DPS

III. Workforce Impacts*:

- a. How many employees are directly and indirectly involved in supporting program activities? How many employees are directly and indirectly involved in supporting program activities that have been suspended?
- b. What acute challenges are New York clean energy companies facing as a result of the COVID-19 crisis? How does this differ by sector and type?
- c. Please provide other data points that could be useful or that should be gathered on the impacts.

IV. Program and Other Support*:

- A. Program modifications and other actions to continue making progress during New York PAUSE:
 1. What types of services are occurring or could occur in a modified way during this period of no on-premises work? What can the State do to help program administrators modify work appropriately to facilitate social distancing?
 2. What new and alternative programs or activities can the State encourage during New York PAUSE? (e.g. virtual audits, thermal imaging, etc.)
 - i. Are there specific considerations for programs that serve Low- to Moderate-Income New Yorkers?
 3. What types of contractor trainings/on-boarding could occur during the New York PAUSE timeframe?
 4. Marketing/Outreach – Should marketing/outreach continue during this phase to try to build pipeline of activity for future projects or are these resources best conserved? Is there evidence that marketing/outreach conducted now would materialize in projects given the uncertain economic conditions of residential/business owners?

- B. Steps to provide support to businesses and workers facing economic impacts:
1. What programmatic changes have been or could be instituted to support clean energy industry activity during this period? (ex. Modifications to project deadlines or, performance milestones, revisions to staged incentive payments etc.) What programmatic changes can be instituted most quickly? Which would be most impactful?
 2. What specific types of short term and longer-term actions would be most helpful to maintain business viability?

* Process for Input:

An opportunity will be provided to participants to provide suggestion and comments on each of the sections noted with an “*” above. Speakers will be asked to identify themselves and the company they represent and limit their comments to ~ 2 minutes. Speakers will be asked to speak in the following order:

- 1) Vendors/contractors supporting New York’s programs;
- 2) Other interested stakeholders/members of the public;
- 3) Utilities, NYSERDA, LIPA, NYPA

Written comments are also invited and can be submitted through the Department’s Document Matter Management (DMM) system in Case 18-M-0084, In the Matter of a Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Initiative. Written comments are requested by Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

All filings should refer to “Case 18-M-0084” and be submitted to the Secretary by e-filing, through the Department of Public Service’s Document and Matter Management System (DMM), or by email to the Secretary at secretary@dps.ny.gov. To register with DMM, go to <http://www.dps.ny.gov/e-file/registration.html>.