Agenda Date: 3/4/26
Agenda Item: 8C

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

CLEAN ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPETITIVE SOLAR INCENTIVE ("CSI") PROGRAM PURSUANT TO P.L. 2021, C. 169	)))))	ORDER ON THE OUTCOME OF THE THIRD SOLICITATION IN THE CSI PROGRAM DOCKET NO. QO21101186

Party of Record:

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

By this Decision and Order, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") considers the responses to its solicitation for 300 megawatts ("MW"[1]) of solar electricity generation capacity through the Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program, established by the Board's December 7, 2022 Order,[2] pursuant to the Solar Act of 2021 ("Solar Act" or "Act").[3] The third solicitation of the CSI Program opened for prequalification on May 14, 2025 and closed to bids on September 30, 2025 at 11:59:59 pm EST. By this Order, the Board announces the projects selected for awards in the third solicitation of the CSI Program, including bidding party and project, bid price, project capacity and county, and approves a total of 24.1179 MW of solar generation.

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On June 9, 2021, Solar Act of 2021 was signed into law. The Act directed the Board to establish a program to incentivize solar generation through the mechanism of SREC-IIs. SREC-IIs represent the value of the environmental attributes of electricity produced by the solar electric power generation facility. By Order dated July 28, 2021, the Board created the Successor Solar Incentive ("SuSI") Program,[4] a key part of the Board's multi-year effort to implement the Solar Act

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[1] All MW values in this Order are in direct current, or "dc".

[2] In re Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to P.L. 2021, c.169, Order Launching the CSI Program, BPU Docket No. QO21101186, Order dated December 7, 2022.

[3] L. 2021, c. 169.

[4] In re a Solar Successor Incentive Program Pursuant to P.L. 2018, c.17, BPU Docket No. QO20020184, Order dated July 28, 2021.

mandate designed to increase the supply of electricity that New Jersey consumers receive from clean solar energy while simultaneously bringing down the costs of solar generation in the State. Under the SuSI Program umbrella, the Administratively Determined Incentive ("ADI") Program offers a fixed incentive in the form of New Jersey SREC-IIs for net metered residential projects, net metered non-residential solar projects of five (5) MW or less, and community solar programs; ADI opened to new registrants on August 28, 2021.[5]

By Order dated December 7, 2022, the Board approved the establishment of the CSI Program via Board Order.[6] The CSI Program serves to incentivize qualifying grid supply solar projects (i.e., those selling into the wholesale markets), grid supply solar installations in combination with energy storage, and net metered non-residential projects above five (5) MW in size. The CSI Program uses competitive principles to ensure that the cost of the SREC-II awards represent the lowest incentive contribution from New Jersey's ratepayers. The CSI Program aims to provide incentives for 300 MW of new solar annually.

The Solar Act directed the Board, in consultation with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP") and the Secretary of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, to establish solar siting rules that apply to projects eligible to participate in the CSI Program.[7] The siting criteria determine where it is permissible for solar projects to be located, where solar construction is subject to restrictions, and where it is prohibited. For some prohibited locations, the Board's siting criteria include provisions that require a project to submit a petition to obtain a waiver for construction of a CSI-eligible facility on certain prohibited land uses.[8] The Board, after consultation with the Department of Agriculture or NJDEP as appropriate, may grant such waiver upon determination that the public interest in the specific project being allowed outweighs the presumptive greater public interest in preserving the land.

The CSI Program awards SREC-IIs through a competitive solicitation, with five (5) separate market tranches:

Tranche 1, basic grid supply projects;
Tranche 2, grid supply projects sited on the built environment;
Tranche 3, grid supply projects sited on contaminated sites and landfills;
Tranche 4, net metered non-residential projects greater than five (5) MW; and
Tranche 5: energy storage paired with grid supply solar.

For each solicitation, the Board sets the solicitation window during which projects must prequalify by providing evidence that they meet maturity requirements and specific tranche eligibility criteria; applications are administratively reviewed by the solicitation manager. Prequalified CSI projects submit a bid for an SREC-II award in their tranche, specified in dollars per MW-hour ("$/MWh") of solar electricity production; the solicitation manager subsequently evaluates projects exclusively on bid price. The Solar Act authorizes the Board to establish confidential, pre-determined price caps for any or all tranches prior to the solicitation.[9]

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[5] Ibid.

[6] In re Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to L. 2021, c. 169, Order Launching the CSI Program, BPU Docket No. QO21101186, Order dated Dec. 7, 2022. ("CSI Order")

[7] N.J.S.A. 48:3-119(b).

[8] N.J.A.C. 14:8-12.6

[9] N.J.S.A. 48:3-117(d).

The CSI Program rules at N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.10 lay out the selection process for successful bids. Winning projects are determined by ranking the proposed SREC-II bid price for each tranche, with lowest-cost projects selected until tranche capacity targets are met for Tranches 1, 2, 3 and 4. Projects are selected to fill but not exceed the procurement target for the given tranche; however, the Board may exercise its discretion in deciding whether to exceed the target if, in the Board's judgment, the incremental project or projects will benefit New Jersey ratepayers. To compete in Tranche 5, a solar plus storage project provides a two-part bid: a solar-only SREC-II price (eligible to compete in Tranches 1, 2 or 3) and a storage adder price that is considered separately in the storage tranche for award.

By Order dated July 12, 2023, the Board announced the results of the CSI Program first solicitation, declining to make any awards as all bids were higher than the price caps.[10] In the same Order, the Board directed Staff to conduct an analysis of market conditions impacting solar development in New Jersey prior to the second solicitation. The second solicitation in the CSI Program opened for prequalification on November 27, 2023, and closed on February 29, 2024.[11] By Order dated November 17, 2023, the Board established updated confidential price caps for all tranches in the second solicitation and provided mechanisms for the exercise of Board discretion in the selection of competitive bids to promote both fiscal responsibility for the State and the likelihood of successful bids, including granting the Board discretion to award competitive bids that do not exceed the tranche price cap by more than 10%.[12] CSI Program rules were amended to incorporate these mechanisms.[13]

By Order dated April 17, 2024, the Board awarded 310.2 MW of solar generation (294.83 MW in Tranche 1: Basic Grid Supply and 15.388 MW in Tranche 3: Contaminated Sites and Landfills) and 80 MWh of paired energy storage.[14] As no bids were submitted in Tranche 2: Grid Supply on the Built Environment or Tranche 4: Net Metered Non-Residential (>5 MW), the Board reallocated capacity from these tranches to Tranche 1, as well as the unawarded capacity from Tranche 3. By the April 17 Order, the Board also directed Staff to perform an evaluation of factors that contributed to low competition in Tranches 2 and 4, and to make any recommendations on tranche adjustments, including capacity allocation or the creation of new tranches, before the next solicitation.

Staff and solicitation administrator, Daymark Energy Advisors ("Daymark"), conducted stakeholder engagement to assess obstacles to participation in the CSI Program. This engagement included conducting surveys of solicitation participants, hosting stakeholder session on September 17, 2024, and releasing a Request for Information on December 2, 2024. Based

[10] In re Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to L. 2021, c. 169, Order on the Outcome of the 2023 CSI Program Solicitation, BPU Docket No. QO21101186, Order dated July 12, 2023.

[11] In re Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to L. 2021, c. 169, Order Addressing the Timing of the Second CSI Program Solicitation, BPU Docket No. QO21101186, Order dated September 27, 2023.

[12] In re Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to L. 2021, c. 169, Order Addressing Price Cap Determination, BPU Docket No. QO21101186, Order dated November 17, 2023 ("November 2023 Order").

[13] N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.10(j)

[14] In re Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to L. 2021, c. 169, Order on the Outcome of the Second Solicitation in the CSI Program, BPU Docket No. QO21101186, Order dated April 17, 2024 ("April 17, 2024 Order").

on the findings, Staff recommended changes to the CSI Program solicitation, which the Board adopted by Order on April 23, 2025,[15] including:

1. Allowing floating solar projects, grid supply projects on industrial and commercial complexes, and those on extractive mining sites to compete in Tranche 2 on a cost basis;
2. Adjusting capacity allocations between the Tranches 1-4;
3. Aligning CSI project maturity requirements to minimally require the Phase I System Impact Study from the reformed PJM interconnection process, and clarifying that projects in Transition Cycle 2 of the PJM queue were not eligible to participate without the study; and
4. Setting the pre-qualification window for the third CSI Program solicitation to open on May 14, 2025, and close to bids on July 23, 2025, at 11:59:59 PM EST, and provided the capacity targets for the third solicitation. The capacity targets were set as follows:

Tranche	**Capacity Target (MW)**
1. Basic Grid Supply	150
2. Grid Supply on the Built Environment	80
3. Grid Supply on Contaminated Sites & Landfills	55
4. Net Metered Non-Residential above 5 MW	15
TOTAL	**300**
5. Energy Storage paired with Grid Supply Solar	160 MWh

5. For the fourth solicitation and subsequent solicitations, setting a regular, annual solicitation and award schedule for solicitations, opening in February of each year and closing in April, with results announced in May.

By the April 23, 2025 Order, the Board also established confidential price caps for each competitive tranche in the solicitation, based on benchmarks determined by using updated technical and financial assumptions including interest rates and rates of return, federal tax credits, capacity and energy revenue expectations, and installation costs.

On July 4, 2025, the Act to Provide for Reconciliation Pursuant to Title II of H. Con. Res. 14 ("H.R.1") was signed into law.[16] H.R.1 directs the phase out of the thirty percent (30%) investment tax credit ("ITC"), such that wind and solar projects that begin construction within twelve (12) months of the enactment of H.R.1 are eligible for the tax credit without a "placed in service" deadline while projects that begin construction after July 4, 2026 must be placed in service by December 31, 2027 to remain eligible. On July 7, 2025, Executive Order 14315 was issued that directed the Treasury of the United States to issue guidance on the termination of tax credits for wind and solar renewable energy generation facilities.[17] In response, by Order dated July 16, 2025, the Board extended the solicitation window for the third solicitation to September 30, 2025, to allow potential CSI Program applicants to access complete information on changes to federal taxation policies that could impact their bids.[18] On August 15, 2025, the Internal Revenue Service

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[15] In re Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to L. 2021, c. 169, Order Addressing Price Cap Determination for the Third Solicitation of the CSI Program, BPU Docket No. QO21101186, Order dated April 23, 2025 ("April 23, 2025 Order").

[16] Pub. L. No. 119-21, H.R. 1, 119th Cong. (2025).

[17] Exec. Order No. 14315, 90 FR 30821 (2025).

[18] In re Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to P.L. 2021, c.169 – Order on the

issued Notice 2025-42 to provide updated guidance on the beginning of construction, for purposes of determining whether a facility is eligible for the ITC.[19]

Also by Order dated July 16, 2025, the Board granted a land-use waiver to the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, in conjunction with Nexamp Solar, LLC for their floating solar project on Wanaque Reservoir, Passaic County, New Jersey.[20] The solar generation facility was proposed to be located in the Highlands preservation area. In compliance with the Act, the Board's rules at N.J.A.C. 14:8-12.6(a) require a petition to include documentation of "sufficient facts and circumstances" to demonstrate why siting a CSI-eligible project on a prohibited land use is in the public interest. The Board considered the information provided in the petition, together with the support expressed by both NJDEP and the Highlands Council, and found that the project is in the public interest. The Board granted the Petitioner's request for a land use waiver that would allow the project to move forward in the prequalification process for the third solicitation of the CSI Program.

Finally, in response to the federal action regarding ITC eligibility, by Order dated September 10, 2025,[21] the Board relaxed the requirements established in its December 7, 2022 Order regarding the amount of a time an awarded project must wait before bidding into a new CSI solicitation and granted projects awarded in the third CSI solicitation the option to terminate their award after receiving notice of conditional registration and remain eligible to participate in a subsequent solicitation with the same or substantially similar project. To utilize this allowance, a project must demonstrate that the awarded bid reflected ITC revenues and that, at the time of bid submission, the project had a reasonable expectation that it would achieve and maintain ITC eligibility by the project commercial operation deadline ("COD"). This order was amended on November 21, 2025, to correct an omission regarding documentation that projects must submit if utilizing the allowance.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

In a competitive solicitation, incentive values should reflect current market conditions and provide a long-term, guaranteed incentive structure for developer investment while placing the least burden on New Jersey's ratepayers. Electricity costs have grown over the past two (2) years as a result of an imbalance in the supply of energy producing resources and demand. The addition of electricity from solar generation facilities can help address this imbalance by increasing the available supply to the energy grid. Staff and the Board are committed to ensuring that state support for additional solar generation does not unduly burden ratepayers and are using both the competitive design and adherence to price caps as key mechanisms to ensure only the least-cost solar projects are incentivized in an effort to protect ratepayers from undue costs.

Extension of the Third Solicitation of the CSI Program, BPU Docket No. QO21101186, Order dated July 16, 2025 ("July 16, 2025 Order").

[19] https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-25-42.pdf ("Notice 2025-42").

[20] In re the Petition of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, in Conjunction with Nexamp Solar, LLC., for a Renewed Floating Solar Project Eligibility Waiver Under the Competitive Solar Incentive Program (P.L. 2021, c.169), BPU Docket No. QW25040187, Order dated July 16, 2025.

[21] In re Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to L. 2021, c. 169, Order Addressing the Participation of Withdrawn Projects, BPU Docket No. QO21101186, Order dated September 10, 2025.

In the third CSI Program solicitation, the Board received 22 prequalified projects totaling 321.80 MW of solar generation capacity.[22] Projects were prequalified in all four generation tranches: six (6) projects totaling 200.85 MW in Tranche 1 (Basic Grid Supply); nine (9) projects totaling 52.77 MW in Tranche 2 (Grid Supply on the Built Environment); six (6) projects totaling 58.19 MW in Tranche 3 (Grid Supply on Contaminated Site and Landfills); and one (1) project totaling 9.988 MW in Tranche 4 (Net Metered Non-Residential larger than 5 MW). Two (2) of the above solar electric generation projects also prequalified to bid for a paired energy storage adder in Tranche 5, totaling 116.772 MWh. Prequalified projects, as confirmed by the solicitation manager, may submit a bid (in $/MWh) for consideration in the solicitation.

Of the prequalified applications in the third CSI solicitation, the Board received eighteen (18) bids across the four generation tranches totaling 143.63 MW. However, only two (2) bids fell under the price caps in place for the solicitation, in Tranches 2 and 3; an additional three (3) bids were within the Board's discretionary ten percent (10%) above the caps, in Tranches 3 and 4. No bids were received in Tranche 5. Staff recommends that the following projects receive SREC-II incentive awards in the third solicitation of the CSI Program, in order of competitive tranche:

Developer	**Tranche**	**Nameplate Capacity (MWdc)**	**SREC-II Bid ($/MWh)**	**County**
Court at Deptford Solar (rooftop project)	2	4.13 MW	$80.00	Gloucester
Deptford Landfill Solar	3	9.9999 MW	$124.00	Gloucester
North Jersey District Water Supply Commission ("NJDWSC")	4	9.988 MW	$119.00	Passaic
TOTAL CAPACITY		**24.1179 MW**		

In making the above recommendations for awards, in accordance with the CSI Program rules at N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.10(k), Staff first considered the SREC-II bids from all grid supply projects (Tranches 1, 2 and 3) ranked against each other. No low-price offers were selected to fill the allocated Tranche 1 capacity, because all bids received in Tranche 1 were above the confidential price caps. One project in Tranche 2 (Court at Deptford Solar, 4.13 MW) and one in Tranche 3 (Deptford Landfill Solar, 9.9999 MW) were selected based on lowest bid price.

Staff recommends that the Board exercise its discretion, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.10(j) to award one (1) project in Tranche 4 (North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, 9.988 MW) that exceeds the confidential price caps by no more than ten percent (10%). The NJDWSC floating solar project received a waiver from the Board to site in the Highlands preservation area by Order

[22] Two additional projects submitted petitions asking the Board to waive eligibility requirements related to project maturity and not reaching commercial operation prior to an award. These projects were considered "prequalified" to allow them to submit bids pending the Board's determination on the petitions but are not included here because the Board denied both petitions in separate orders issued at the January 28, 2026, Board meeting.

dated July 16, 2025. The project will improve the resiliency of the NJDWSC and will be the largest floating solar generation facility in New Jersey. This is also a project from a public entity and represents the first award in this tranche. Because it is a public entity project, in calculating the applicable price cap, Staff added the $20 public entity adder to the price cap otherwise applicable to Tranche 4; the project falls within ten percent (10%) above the price cap with the adder incorporated.

The total capacity recommended for the solicitation is as follows: Tranche 2, 4.13 MW; Tranche 3, 9.9999 MW; and Tranche 4, 9.988 MW.

Staff considers that the commercial operation timeline provided in the CSI rules at N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.5(g)(3)(iii) has proven an obstacle to other registered CSI projects awarded in the second solicitation. Per the rules, all projects must reach commercial operation within 36 months of the date of the notice of conditional registration. While this timeframe is longer than the time allowed for projects in the ADI Program, Staff notes that this timeline may not suitably accommodate current timelines needed for component delivery, permitting navigation, interconnection and project construction. The Board has previously recognized that projects in the CSI Program face complexity and obstacles in interconnection, permitting, and construction, which warrants this longer timeline. Registrants are permitted a six (6)-month administrative extension upon showing dedicated progress pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.5(i), and by Order on August 13, 2025, the Board provided nine (9) months of additional time to CSI projects registered in the second solicitation.[23] Staff recommends that, for awardees in the third CSI Program solicitation, the Board grant forty-eight (48) months to reach their COD, with a six (6)-month administrative extension available. Staff also recognizes that with an extended timeline to accommodate permitting and interconnection, a project's ability to secure a contract within a year of registration may prove equally challenging, as there may not yet be a clear scope on engineering, procurement and construction needs within that timeframe. As such, Staff therefore recommends that the Board waive the registration requirement for CSI-eligible projects at N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.5(d)(2)(i) of the "contract between the primary installer or the third-party owner, as applicable, and the bidder or customer of record, submitted within one year of the date of conditional registration," and suggests that this benchmark should instead be recorded on the quarterly milestone report that tracks project progress.

The Solar Act mandates that participants in the CSI Program "pay an annual administrative fee, in an amount to be determined by the board in the rules and regulations adopted by the board." As the Board has set the administrative fee at $0 for each of the past solicitations, Staff recommends that the Board set the administrative fee for awardees in the third CSI Program solicitation to $0.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

New Jersey has a strong solar market, with over 5,317 MW of installed solar capacity as of October 31, 2025, and over 1,330 MW more currently under development. This is in keeping with

[23] In re the Community Solar Energy Program, BPU Docket No. QO22030153; In re the Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program Pursuant to P.L. 2021, c.169, BPU Docket No. QO21101186; In re Modernizing New Jersey's Interconnection Rules, Processes and Metrics, BPU Docket No. QO21010085, Order dated August 13, 2025.

New Jersey's long-standing position as a national leader in solar development, despite its relatively small size, high population density, and lower values of solar insolation compared to some of the western and southern states. The goal of the CSI Program is to add 300 MW of generation annually through a competitive process that results in the least cost to New Jersey ratepayers. Although New Jersey's solar market is strong, the CSI Program represents a relatively nascent market segment. The Board **FINDS** that reducing the cost of solar incentives to ratepayers over time is an important policy goal. As such, as more solar electric generation comes online through the CSI Program, the Board intends to seek a reduction in the incentive levels for subsequent solicitations, with the goal of eventually phasing out incentives.

After review of the record and Staff's recommendation, the Board **FINDS** that, as required at N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.4, 22 of the participants in the third solicitation of the CSI Program satisfied the eligibility requirements of the CSI Program and prequalified in a specific competitive Tranche, and submitted a bid in dollars per MWh ($/MWh). The Board **FINDS** that no bids were submitted in Tranche 5 for energy storage paired with grid supply solar generation. The Board **FINDS** that the SREC-II bid submitted by each prequalified project was the single factor used in award determination.

In considering awards, the SREC-II bids from grid supply Tranches 1, 2 and 3 were first ranked competitively against each other. No low-price offers were selected to fill the allocated Tranche 1 capacity; one project in Tranche 2 and one in Tranche 3 were selected based on lowest bid price. Projects submitted in Tranche 4 were evaluated separately, as net-metered projects. The Board **FINDS** that, in keeping with its discretion provided at N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.10(j)(2) to award projects exceeding the confidential price caps by no more than ten (10) percent, one net metered project in Tranche 4 may be selected based on N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.10(j)(2); this represents the first CSI project selected in this tranche.

The Board **FINDS** that the selection process used to evaluate the SREC-II bids received in the third solicitation was in line with statutory requirements and the program rules at N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.10. The Board **FINDS** that awarding additional capacity in the solicitation would result in bid procurement prices in excess of the confidential price caps and **CONCLUDES** that awarding additional MWs to fill the target solicitation capacity would not be in the best interest of the State and the ratepayers. The Board **DECLINES** to make awards in Tranche 1 to fill the allocated tranche capacity, or to make additional awards in the other competitive tranches.

The Board **HEREBY APPROVES** the Court at Deptford Solar, Tranche 2 project in Gloucester County, New Jersey, with a nameplate capacity of 4.13 MW, to receive an SREC-II award of $80.00 per MWh for solar generation.

The Board **HEREBY APPROVES** the Deptford Landfill Solar, Tranche 3 project in Gloucester County, New Jersey, with a nameplate capacity of 9.9999 MW, to receive an SREC-II award of $124.00 per MWh for solar generation.

The Board **HEREBY APPROVES** the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, Tranche 4 floating solar project in Passaic County, New Jersey, with a nameplate capacity of 9.988 MW, to receive an SREC-II award of $119.00 per MWh for solar generation.[24]

The Board **DIRECTS** all CSI Program award recipients to submit an initial registration package within 30 days of the effective date of this Board Order, whereupon projects in Tranches 2 and 4

[24] The award of $119 per MWh is inclusive of the $20 adder for public entities.

will be issued a notice of conditional registration and Tranche 3 projects will be issued a conditional registration pending site review by the NJDEP. For Tranche 3 projects sited on contaminated sites or landfills, the Board **DIRECTS** award recipients to submit a Contaminated Site and Landfill Eligibility Verification Form and NJDEP Permit Readiness Checklist. Based on a review of the site and verification of eligibility by NJDEP, the Board will determine whether the project is eligible for conditional certification. Conditional registration for Tranche 3 projects will not be complete until the Board issues an Order of conditional certification.

The underlying competitive nature and completion timelines of the CSI Program are intended to ensure SREC-II awards represent the lowest incentive contribution from NJ ratepayers. The Board is aware that recent Federal policies, enacted in 2025, may have negatively impacted the component procurement and delivery timelines of some projects. The Board has previously taken steps to mitigate these impacts like extending the solicitation window. The Board has also previously allowed limited timeline flexibility to address interconnection delays. Project delays have a negative impact on the availability of grid resources and inevitably increase the burden on ratepayers. Additionally, the Board recognizes that these are times of historically high grid demand and capacity market prices and that bringing additional generation capacity online in is in the public interest. The Board's rules state that "[i]n special cases and for good cause shown, the Board may… relax or permit deviations from these rules." N.J.A.C. 14:1-1.2(b). These rules further establish that "[t]he Board shall, in accordance with the general purpose and intent of the rules, waive section(s) of the rule if full compliance with the rule(s) would adversely affect the ratepayers of a utility or other regulated entity, the ability of said utility or other regulated entity to continue to render safe, adequate and proper service, or the interests of the general public." N.J.A.C. 14:1-1.2(b)(1). The Board **FINDS** that some flexibility in the project completion timeline is warranted under the current circumstances, as it would likely lead to alleviating demand caused burdens on ratepayer and is consistent with Board precedent in treatment of similarly situated situations. The Board therefore **WAIVES** its rules at N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.5(g)(3) and **DIRECTS** that conditionally registered projects awarded in the third CSI Program solicitation must complete construction within 48 months of the date of notice of conditional registration. The Board **FURTHER FINDS** that, with a 48-month timeline allowed for CSI project completion, flexibility may also be necessary for project requirements such as the documentation of the contract, and that is appropriate for projects awarded in the third CSI Program solicitation to include this documentation with the quarterly milestone reporting form required of all CSI projects. The Board therefore **WAIVES** the requirement that a contract between the primary installer or the third-party owner, as applicable, and the bidder or customer of record be submitted within one year of the date of conditional registration, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:8-11.5(d)(2)(i), and **DIRECTS** that an executed contract be submitted as a part of the milestone reporting form.

The Board **DIRECTS** all projects conditionally registered in the CSI Program to comply with the Siting Rules for Grid Supply and Large Net Metered Solar Facilities at N.J.A.C. 14:8-12.8.

After the project commences commercial operation and submits a post-construction certification package demonstrating that all the program requirements have been met, the Board **DIRECTS** Staff to issue a New Jersey State Certification Number to the project for purposes of SREC-II creation for a 15-year Qualification Life.

The Board **FINDS** that an appropriate administrative fee for award recipients in the third solicitation of the CSI Program is $0.

The effective date of this Order is March 11, 2026.

DATED: March 4, 2026

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:

CHRISTINE GUHL SADOVY
PRESIDENT

DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU
COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL BANGE
COMMISSIONER

EMMA REBHORN
COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH COVIELLO
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SHERRI L. LEWIS
BOARD SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPETITIVE SOLAR INCENTIVE ("CSI") PROGRAM PURSUANT TO P.L. 2021, C. 169 – ORDER ON THE OUTCOME OF THE THIRD SOLICITATION OF THE CSI PROGRAM

DOCKET NO. QO21101186

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