



January 25, 2016

Judith Judson
Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Lisa Glover
Energy Analyst
Unitil Service Corp.
6 Liberty Lane
Hampton, NH 03842-1720

Jeffery S. Waltman
Manager, Planning & Power Supply
Eversource
One NSTAR way, NE220
Westwood, MA 02090-9230

The United Illuminating Company
Attn: Alan Trotta 157 Church Street, 16th floor
New Haven, CT 06506

Corinne DiDomenico
Manager, Environmental Transactions
National Grid
100 East Old Country Road
Energy Procurement, 2nd Floor
Hicksville, NY, 11801

Debra Morrell Administrative
Coordinator, Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Sir(s)/Madam(s):

The Somerset Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) is writing in support of certain affiliates of NextEra Energy, Inc. that are bidding to provide clean energy and transmission to the Procuring States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island as part of the New England Clean Energy RFP.

Currently, New England is facing a host of significant challenges related to the reliable and affordable supply of electricity. These challenges have been building over many years and the impacts are currently affecting customers in the region. Many of the older power generating units in New England are retiring which is reducing the amount of available in-region power generation. In addition, New England's ambitious Renewable Portfolio Standards goals are requiring that any new power generation capacity is clean.

NextEra Energy is proposing a new solar project and transmission line in the Caratunk-Moscow-Bingham region. The solar project will be one of the largest of its kind in New England and will contribute to economic development through construction and operations jobs in the area. The addition of clean solar energy and the investment in much needed transmission infrastructure will help alleviate existing bulk power system constraints in the region and provide reliable clean energy to be delivered to New England's consumers.

Some of the benefits NextEra Energy's proposed projects will have for New England include:

- Economic Benefits –
 - Lowers energy costs regionally by bringing more affordable energy onto the grid;
 - Increase in needs of goods and services, such as food, fuel, lodging, machine work, and contractor opportunities;
 - Creates jobs and opportunities to learn trades;
 - Generates sales tax, income tax, and annual property tax revenues during the life of the project;
 - Expands and enhances access to broadband in rural Maine.
- Environmental Benefits –
 - Lowers carbon emissions across the region;
 - Enables New England states to achieve clean energy goals by delivering clean, renewable energy to the grid;
 - Maintains recreational opportunities, land use typically remains open to hunting and fishing;
 - Minimizes impacts to environmental and social resources by co-locating transmission with existing utility rights-of-way;
 - Fits into the existing landscape and utilizing lands managed for timber.

SEDC is pleased to submit this letter in support of NextEra Energy's clean energy and transmission bid. If the Evaluation Team has any questions, please feel free to contact me at 207-474-0166.

Sincerely,



Heather Johnson

Executive Director,

Somerset Economic Development Corporation