



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350  
[www.nj.gov/bpu/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF	)	DECISION AND ORDER
ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY CONCERNING THE	)	SETTING ADMINISTRATIVE
SETTING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE AND THE	)	FEE
REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE ("RGGI")	)	
RECOVERY CHARGE FOR 2022 ASSOCIATED WITH	)	
ITS SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE	)	
("SREC II") PROGRAM	)	DOCKET NO. ER21091108

**Parties of Record:**

**Margaret Comes, Esq.**, for Rockland Electric Company  
**Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On September 1, 2021, Rockland Electric Company ("RECO" or "Company") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") seeking authority to maintain the Administrative Fee and Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Surcharge ("RGGI Surcharge") associated with the Company's Solar Renewable Energy Certificate ("SREC") Program ("SREC II Program") for calendar year 2022 ("September 2021 Petition"). By this Decision and Order, the Board considers RECO's request to maintain the SREC II Program Administrative Fee at its current level of \$30.00 for the 2022 calendar year.

**BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

By Order dated August 7, 2008, the Board directed RECO to file with the Board a solar financing plan by January 31, 2009.<sup>1</sup> RECO filed its SREC-based financing program on February 2, 2009, in Docket No. EO09020097.

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<sup>1</sup> In re the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, BPU Docket No. EO06100744, Order dated August 7, 2008.

By Order dated July 31, 2009, the Board authorized the Company to implement an SREC financing program.<sup>2</sup> The costs for the SREC financing program were to be charged through a component of the Company's existing RGGI Surcharge.

On November 8, 2011, the Board directed the Office of Clean Energy to initiate an assessment of New Jersey's renewable energy programs, as well as address issues raised by the Solar Energy Advancement and Fair Competition Act (L. 2009, c. 289) and the 2011 Energy Master Plan.<sup>3</sup> On May 23, 2012, the Board issued an Order directing RECO "to file within, 5 business days of service of [the May 23, 2012] Order, a notice of their intention to participate or not to participate in the Extended Electric Distribution Company SREC Programs consistent with Staff's recommendations adopted by the Board herein."<sup>4</sup> On September 5, 2012, RECO submitted a petition for Board approval of the Company's SREC II Program. By Order dated December 18, 2013, the Board authorized RECO to offer an SREC II Program with a total program size of up to 4.5 MW.<sup>5</sup> The December 2013 Order set the Administrative Fee for SREC II Program participants at \$30.00 per SREC and further ordered that after five (5) years there would be a true-up of administrative costs and program participant fees, and the program participant fees would be adjusted on a prospective basis beginning January 1, 2019. Additionally, the December 2013 Order directed RECO to "assess Application Fees, Assignment and Administrative Fees (collectively, "Program Participant Fees") to program participants."

Through a series of Board Orders dated December 20, 2019, December 16, 2020, and July 14, 2021, the Board approved the maintenance of the Company's SREC II Administrative Fee at the Board's previously approved rate of \$30.00 and maintenance of the RGGI Surcharge applicable to the SREC II Program Direct Costs at its current rate of \$0.000000 per kWh.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> In re the Verified Petition of Rockland Electric Company Concerning a Proposal for an SREC-Based Program Under N.J.S.A 48:3-98.1, BPU Docket No. EO09020097, Order dated July 31, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> The Office of Clean Energy was subsequently renamed the Division of Clean Energy.

<sup>4</sup> In re the Review of Utility Supported Solar Programs, BPU Docket No. EO11050311V, Order dated May 23, 2012 at page 28.

<sup>5</sup> In re the Matter of the Verified Petition of Rockland Electric Company for Approval to Implement an Extended Solar Renewable Energy Certificate-Based Financing Program Pursuant to NJ.S.A. 48: 3-98.1 (SREC II Program), BPU Docket No. EO13020118, Order dated December 18, 2013 ("December 2013 Order").

<sup>6</sup> In re the Matter of the Verified Petition of Rockland Electric Company Concerning the Setting of the Administrative Fee and The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Recovery Charge ("Rider RGGI") for 2019 Associated with Its Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC II) Program, BPU Docket No. ER19020156, Order dated December 20, 2019.

In re the Matter of the Verified Petition of Rockland Electric Company Concerning the Setting of the Administrative Fee and The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Recovery Charge ("Rider RGGI") for 2021 Associated with Its Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC II) Program, BPU Docket No. ER20100691, Order dated December 16, 2020 and Order dated July 14, 2021.

**September 2021 Petition**

In the September 2021 Petition, RECO proposed a modification to the cost recovery mechanism approved in the December 2013 Order. According to RECO, using the cost recovery provisions from the December 2013 Order, the Company would need to decrease the Administrative Fee from \$30.00 to \$26.16 per SREC. RECO provided that notwithstanding actual administrative costs and fees are expected to fluctuate from year to year, a reduction of the Administrative Fee could result in an under-recovery in 2022 and subsequent calendar years. Accordingly, RECO requested authorization to carry forward their current over recovered administrative fee balances and maintain the Administrative Fee at \$30.00 for calendar year 2022. Additionally, RECO sought approval to maintain its RGGI Surcharge for the recovery of the SREC II Program Direct Costs at \$0.000000 per kWh.

**DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

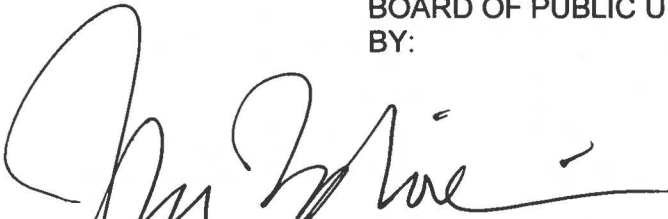
The parties are in the process of reviewing the September 2021 Petition, which will not be complete prior to the impending change in the SREC II Administrative Fee required by the December 2013 Order. Accordingly, after reviewing the record in this matter, including the September 2021 Petition, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** it is appropriate to maintain the SREC II Program Administrative Fee for the 2022 calendar year at its current level. Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY ORDERS** the continuation of the SREC II Program Administrative Fee at the Board's previously approved rate of \$30.00 for the 2022 calendar year.

The Board notes that the parties will continue to review all matters concerning the September 2021 Petition. The Company's costs, including those related to the programs described above, remain subject to audit by the Board. As such, this Decision and Order shall not preclude or prohibit the Board from taking any actions determined to be appropriate as a result of any such audit.

The effective date of this Order is December 22, 2021.

DATED: December 15, 2021

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AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH  
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
CONCERNING THE SETTING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE AND THE REGIONAL  
GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE (“RGGI”) RECOVERY CHARGE FOR 2022 ASSOCIATED  
WITH ITS SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (“SREC II”) PROGRAM

DOCKET NO. ER21091108

SERVICE LIST

<p><b><u>Board of Public Utilities</u></b> 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350</p> <p>Aida Camacho-Welch, Board Secretary <a href="mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov">board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov</a></p> <p>Stacy Peterson, Deputy Executive Director <a href="mailto:stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov">stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov</a></p> <p><b><u>Counsel’s Office</u></b></p> <p>Heather Weisband, Esq. <a href="mailto:heather.weisband@bpu.nj.gov">heather.weisband@bpu.nj.gov</a></p> <p><b><u>Division of Energy</u></b></p> <p>Paul Lupo, Acting Director <a href="mailto:paul.lupo@bpu.nj.gov">paul.lupo@bpu.nj.gov</a></p> <p>Bart Kilar <a href="mailto:bart.kilar@bpu.nj.gov">bart.kilar@bpu.nj.gov</a></p> <p><b><u>Division of Rate Counsel</u></b> 140 East Front Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Post Office Box 003 Trenton, NJ 08625-0003</p> <p>Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director <a href="mailto:blipman@rpa.nj.gov">blipman@rpa.nj.gov</a></p> <p>Maura Caroselli <a href="mailto:mcaroselli@rpa.nj.gov">mcaroselli@rpa.nj.gov</a></p> <p>Sarah H. Steindel, Esq. <a href="mailto:ssteinde@rpa.nj.gov">ssteinde@rpa.nj.gov</a></p> <p>Shelly Massey, Paralegal <a href="mailto:smassey@rpa.nj.gov">smassey@rpa.nj.gov</a></p>	<p><b><u>Division of Law</u></b> 25 Market Street Post Office Box 112 Trenton, NJ 08625-0112</p> <p>Pamela Owen, DAG <a href="mailto:pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov">pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov</a></p> <p>Darren Eppley, DAG <a href="mailto:darren.eppley@law.njoag.gov">darren.eppley@law.njoag.gov</a></p> <p>Michael Beck, DAG <a href="mailto:michael.beck@law.njoag.gov">michael.beck@law.njoag.gov</a></p> <p>Terel Klein, DAG <a href="mailto:terel.klein@law.njoag.gov">terel.klein@law.njoag.gov</a></p> <p><b><u>Rockland Electric Company</u></b> 4 Irving Place -26th Fl. New York, NY 10003</p> <p>John Carley, Esq. <a href="mailto:jcarley@coned.com">jcarley@coned.com</a></p> <p>Margaret Comes, Esq. <a href="mailto:comesm@coned.com">comesm@coned.com</a></p> <p>Michael DiGravina <a href="mailto:digravinam@coned.com">digravinam@coned.com</a></p> <p>Andrew Howard <a href="mailto:howardan@oru.com">howardan@oru.com</a></p> <p>Cheryl Ruggiero <a href="mailto:ruggieroc@coned.com">ruggieroc@coned.com</a></p> <p>Andrea C. Crane The Columbia Group, Inc. 2805 East Oakland Park Boulevard, #401 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306 <a href="mailto:ctcolumbia@aol.com">ctcolumbia@aol.com</a></p>
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