

June 7, 2013

The Honorable Benjamin B. Downing
Chairman, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
State House, Room 413F
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable John D. Keenan
Chairman, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
State House, Room 473B
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Energy Policy Review Commission

Dear Chairman Keenan and Chairman Downing:

I am writing on behalf of the Energy Policy Review Commission (Commission) to respectfully request an extension to the deadline for the Energy Policy Review Commission's report to the Legislature. The deadline for a report to the Legislature is June 30, 2013.

The Commission was created as part of Section 41 of the Chapter 209 of the Acts of 2012. The Commission is chaired by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and consists of appointed representatives of the business community, the Attorney General's Office, academia and representatives from the Governor, Speaker of the House and the Senate.

As detailed in the Act, the Commission shall:

“research and review the economic and environmental benefits, as well as, the economic and electricity cost implications of energy and electricity policies in the commonwealth. The commission shall report to the legislature recommendations on how to (i) further expand the commonwealth's renewable energy portfolio and promote energy efficiency; (ii) encourage business development and job creation; (iii) reduce the costs associated with energy programs funded, in whole or in part, by the commonwealth, while maximizing the benefit of these programs; (iv) reduce the cost of electricity for commercial industrial and residential customers; and (v) increase electricity reliability.”

In addition, the Commission must “research, evaluate, consider and report on: (i) determining consistent metrics to be utilized to evaluate the success and cost-effectiveness of programs under chapter 169 of the acts of 2008; (ii) the associated economic and environmental impact of scheduled increases in demand resources, aggregate net metering capacity and renewable energy capacity; (iii) the structure of the regional wholesale electricity market and its impact on retail electricity costs; and (iv) the overall impact of the commonwealth's energy and electricity policies on economic growth in the commonwealth, specifically net job creation and business development, establishment and retention.” Furthermore, the Commission must include

“an analysis of the estimated or actual economic and environmental benefits, as well as, economic cost, electricity cost and implication for electricity reliability of: (i) implementing administrative, regulatory and legislative rulemaking as it pertains to electricity and the structure of the wholesale electricity market; and (ii) meeting legislative and administrative goals and requirements related to greenhouse gas reductions, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation.” Finally, the Commission was directed to hold two periods of public comment; one prior to the report being written, and a second period of comment. The deadline for a report to the Legislature is June 30, 2013.

The Commission has been working diligently over the course of 2013. As expected with such a diverse group of participants, there has been a steady dialogue between members of the Commission. The first public comment period of the initial outline of the report was closed on May 20, 2013, resulting in numerous comments that the Commission members are reviewing to make sure the public is well represented in the final report. At least 2,000 individuals and organizations received personal emails notifying them of their opportunity to comment on energy policy in the Commonwealth through the Commission.

While the Commission is making good progress and is in the final stages of writing the draft report, we are writing to request an extension from the June 30, 2013 deadline to ensure that the Commission (1) completes the public comment period on the draft report, as required by the legislation; and (2) thoroughly considers the public comments when finalizing the draft report including data gathering and analysis.

Based on the foregoing, we are asking that the deadline for the final report to be delivered to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy on June 30, 2013 be extended to October 31, 2013. It is our intention to continue to meet regularly and to continue on the progress we have made.

We thank you in advance for considering our request to extend the deadline for this important document. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara Kates-Garnick
Undersecretary for Energy
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs