



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

December 2, 2015

Audrey Zibelman, CEO
New York State Department of Public Service
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12222-1350

Dear Ms. Zibelman:

By this letter I am directing the Department of Public Service, through you as its Chief Executive Officer, to immediately commence a proceeding to establish a Clean Energy Standard for the State. As set forth in the 2015 State Energy Plan (SEP), the State's long term goal is to provide 50% of its electricity from renewable resources by 2030 (50 by 30 goal). By mandating a Clean Energy Standard we ensure that this goal is converted from aspirational to actionable. Talking about goals and achieving them are two different things. As leaders from around the world meet at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris, France this week, New York will set the right example in establishing a Clean Energy Standard to cost effectively and efficiently achieve our environmental objective of reducing carbon emissions 40% by 2030. This plan is both rational and among the most aggressive in the nation.

The Department, and ultimately the Public Service Commission, is required by section 6-104(5)(b) of the Energy Law to take steps to render decisions and policies that are reasonably consistent with the SEP. The use of a Clean Energy Standard will ensure that steps are being taken to achieve the 50 by 30 goal.

In developing the Standard, additional attention needs to be given to ensure emissions free sources of electricity remain operational. Specifically, elimination of upstate nuclear facilities, operating under valid federal licenses, would eviscerate the emission reductions achieved through the State's renewable energy programs, diminish fuel diversity, increase price volatility, and financially harms host communities. This support should be separate and distinct from the renewable energy goal.

In order to ensure the Clean Energy Standard is adopted and implemented in a timeframe affording the achievement of the 50 by 30 goal, I direct the Department to present the Clean Energy Standard to the Public Service Commission by July of 2016.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Andrew M. Cuomo, written in a cursive style.

ANDREW M. CUOMO

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