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NEPGA SUBMITS COMMENTS ON CONNECTICUT'S ENERGY STRATEGY

Boston, MA: Today, the New England Power Generators Association, Inc. (NEPGA) submitted comments to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regarding the state's draft Comprehensive Energy Strategy (DES). In its comments, NEPGA urges the DEEP to take a measured approach in making any widespread changes to the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), especially any modifications to the definition of RPS eligible resources. NEPGA's comments also highlight the upcoming expiration of the Connecticut generator tax as an important step in achieving the CES's energy vision for Connecticut.

The DEEP released the draft CES in early October, outlining an ambitious long-term vision for Connecticut's energy future. This study was conducted pursuant to Public Act 11-80, legislation that passed in 2010 and required the development of a state energy strategy.

While supporting the effort, NEPGA has serious concerns over the study of the state's RPS recommended by the CES. In particular NEPGA does not support the potential recommendation of allowing state-owned large-scale hydro projects to qualify for the Connecticut's RPS. As NEPGA's comments said, "Allowing these resources to qualify for the RPS effectively kills attempts to create incentives for new, local renewable resources and the economic development benefits that Connecticut and the region derives from the local investments and employment."

NEPGA also noted the importance of including stakeholders in the RPS study process – a sentiment shared by all stakeholders attending the DEEP's technical session on the draft electricity supply recommendations. NEPGA said, "Given the DEEP's strong focus to date on stakeholder input in its proceedings, our hope is that DEEP's process will continue with adequate time for meaningful stakeholder perspectives."

NEPGA's comments also address the upcoming sunset on the temporary tax passed in 2011 on Connecticut's in-state generation facilities. While the CES does not address the tax, the strategy does outline a vision for Connecticut as a "leader in creating a cheaper, cleaner energy future while growing the state's economy, and as a great place to live and work." NEPGA comments note that although consumers are enjoying the lowest regional wholesale electric rates in nearly a decade, Connecticut consumers are paying higher costs than necessary due to this regressive tax. NEPGA strongly urges the state to allow the sunset on the tax to remain so that, "households and businesses no longer have to bear a tax on the production of electric generation in Connecticut that increases costs by tens of millions of dollars."

The New England Power Generators Association (NEPGA) is the trade association representing competitive electric generating companies in New England. NEPGA's members' represent 85%, or nearly 27,000 megawatts, of all the available generating capacity in New England. NEPGA's mission is to promote sound energy policies which will further economic development, jobs, and balanced environmental policy. NEPGA believes that sustainable competitive markets are the best means to provide long-term reliable and affordable supplies of electricity for consumers.

For more information go to www.nepga.org and follow NEPGA on Twitter [@NEPGA](https://twitter.com/NEPGA).