

NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS CONFERENCE, INC.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A Resolution Directing The New England State Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) to Implement a Work Plan for the Competitive Coordinated Procurement of Regional Renewable Power

WHEREAS the New England States have a long and successful history of leadership and cooperation on such issues as energy, environmental protection and climate change; and

WHEREAS the New England region has vast potential for cost-effective renewable resources, particularly wind power, and a proven ability to site and develop transmission projects within the region; and

WHEREAS NESCOE, at the request of the New England Governors, conducted an extensive analysis of state laws and policies through which the states could facilitate the development of renewable resources located in and proximate to the region, as well as associated transmission, and produced the *New England Governors' Renewable Energy Blueprint* (Blueprint); and

WHEREAS the New England Governors' by resolution dated September 15, 2009, adopted the Blueprint and directed their regulatory and policy officials to (1) use the Blueprint as a resource to help support development of New England's renewable resources in their public advocacy, rulemaking, policy development and other initiatives; and (2) to review the availability of renewable resources in the region, including those identified in the Blueprint; and to consider potential mechanisms for joint or separate but coordinated and competitive procurement of renewable resources; and

WHEREAS in July 2010, in response to direction from the New England Governors, NESCOE provided to the New England Governors a *Report to the New England Governors on Coordinated Renewable Procurement* reflecting the New England states' initial assessment of issues associated with joint or separate but coordinated renewable procurement, including identification of some preliminary terms and conditions associated with such procurement as well as some obstacles and potential solutions with regard to coordinating processes and related matters; and

WHEREAS in December 2010, NESCOE issued a Request for Information (RFI) to help identify those Renewable Portfolio Standard or goal-eligible resources within New England or neighboring regions that could be operational by 2016 that have the greatest potential for helping New England meet renewable energy goals at the lowest overall – or “all in” – delivered price of electricity; and

WHEREAS in response to the RFI, NESCOE received promising results including information on more than 50 renewable generation projects totaling more than 4,700 megawatts and seven transmission projects designed to facilitate delivery of renewable energy to New England loads,

which confirmed that sufficient resources exist to enable New England to develop or import renewable energy to meet states' Renewable Portfolio Standards or goals; and

WHEREAS the New England Governors continue to be interested in exploring the potential for joint or separate but coordinated competitive procurement of renewable resources as a means to identify those able to serve customers at the lowest over-all delivered cost; and

WHEREAS NESCOE, at the request of the New England Governors, completed an analysis in 2012 of the availability of, and potential cost for, new wind resources that could be developed in New England or New York to meet New England's renewable energy goals, and demonstrated that the regional potential for additional wind energy greatly exceeds the forecasted regional need through 2020; and

WHEREAS NESCOE reported on this analysis to the New England Governors on February 26, 2012 as per the New England Governors' resolution dated July 11, 2011, directing NESCOE and their regulatory and policy officials to report on the progress of such investigations at or before the next meeting of the New England Governor's conference; and

WHEREAS NESCOE has developed a work plan for moving forward toward a regional procurement, which sets out remaining work that needs to be completed, decisions that need to be made, and issues to be resolved and steps for completing these, and which evidences that these steps could be completed and a solicitation for procurement issued by the end of December 2013.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New England Governors direct NESCOE and their regulatory and policy officials to implement the work plan and any regulatory proceedings or procedures as are necessary or appropriate to execute the coordinated competitive regional procurement of renewable power, with the goal of issuing a solicitation for procurement by the end of December 2013; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New England Governors **direct their energy policy staffs** to implement such other policy and procedures in their states as are necessary or appropriate to facilitate a coordinated competitive regional procurement consistent with the NESCOE work plan and timetable; and

ADOPTION CERTIFIED BY THE NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS CONFERENCE, INC. on July 30, 2012 in Montpelier, Vermont.

Peter Shumlin
Governor of Vermont
Chairman