

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

—
S.P. 792 - L.D. 1943

**An Act Regarding Future Energy Procurements for Renewable Energy
Development in Northern Maine**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3210-I, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

3-A. Requests for proposals; additional generation capacity. The commission shall issue a request for proposals for the development and construction of renewable energy generation projects in northern Maine, in addition to those selected under subsection 3, in order to maximize the utilization of the capacity of the transmission line proposal selected under subsection 2. The commission shall:

A. Approve a contract as long as the commission evaluates the contract in accordance with subsection 3, paragraph C and determines that the contract is in the public interest; and

B. Consider bids in any previous request for proposals issued under subsection 3 by:

(1) Providing those bidders with an opportunity to submit updated proposals that account for any previous contract awards in order to ensure that proposals are expeditiously received and most cost-effective in consideration of those previous awards; and

(2) Applying evaluation criteria set forth in this subsection, except that the commission shall give greatest preference to any proposal that:

(a) Demonstrates the greatest likelihood of ensuring the success of the program by contributing to the likelihood of successful completion of the transmission line proposal selected under subsection 2 and other generation proposals selected under subsection 3;

(b) Is submitted by a bidder that demonstrates significant experience in the successful completion of renewable energy generation projects similar to that proposal; and

(c) Complements the proposals previously selected under subsection 3, but mitigates overall risk to the success of the program by diversifying bidder selection and economic development opportunities in northern Maine.

If a selected proposal under this subsection is unable, at any time after selection and before commercial operation, to fulfill the obligations of the contract, the commission may consider other proposals received under this subsection or subsection 3 to ensure the successful implementation of the program. If the commission finds that a proposal or proposals, whether in whole or in part, received under this subsection or subsection 3 would support the overall successful implementation of the program, the commission shall approve and order a contract or contracts accordingly.

Sec. 2. Integration study and cluster system impact study; timing. The Public Utilities Commission shall conduct a request for proposals and approve contracts in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210-I, subsection 3-A, if practicable, on a schedule to enable selected renewable energy generation projects to seek inclusion in the New England independent system operator's Third Maine Resource Integration Study and the subsequent cluster system impact study. If the commission determines that the request for proposals or approval of contracts would interfere with the completion of the cluster system impact study, it may delay the request for proposals or approval of contracts until such time that such actions would no longer interfere.