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STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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COMMISSIONERS

March 28, 2012

Honorable Michael Thibodeau, Senate Chair
Honorable Stacey Fitts, House Chair
Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee
115 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Annual Report on New Renewable Resource Portfolio Requirement

Dear Senator Thibodeau and Representative Fitts:

During its 2007 session, the Legislature enacted an Act to Stimulate Demand for Renewable Energy (Act), P.L. 2007, ch. 403. The Act added a mandate that specified percentages of electricity that supply Maine's consumers come from "new" renewable resources. The Act also required that the Commission submit annual reports on the status of the new renewable resource portfolio requirement. The reporting provision specifies:

Annual Reports. No later than March 31, 2008, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall submit a report regarding the status of new renewable capacity resources in the State and New England, and compliance with the portfolio requirement required by this section to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters. The report shall include, but is not limited to, a description of new renewable capacity resources available to meet the portfolio requirement required by this section, documentation of the loss of any existing renewable generation capacity in the State, the status of implementation of the new renewable resources portfolio requirement, including any suspensions pursuant to subsection D, and recommendations to stimulate investment in new renewable resources.

As you are aware, during the 2011 session, the Legislature enacted An Act To Reduce Energy Prices for Maine Consumers, P.L. 2011, ch. 413. Section 6 of the law directed the Commission to study a variety of issues involving the operation of the new renewable resource portfolio requirement and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Committee by January 31, 2012. The Commission engaged London Economics International (LEI) to prepare the report. In August, 2011, the Commission initiated an inquiry that requested information and comments from interested persons on a number of specific issues related to the study and issued a draft report in

January 2012 for public comment. On January 31, 2012, the Commission submitted the written report and on February 23, 2012, the Commission and LEI presented the report to the Committee. The report contains the information required by the annual reporting requirement and to avoid unnecessary duplication, the Commission submits this letter referencing the January 31st report to comply with the portfolio requirement annual reporting requirement.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Welch, Chairman

On behalf of the Chairman and

Vendean V. Vafiades, Commissioner
David Littell, Commissioner
Maine Public Utilities Commission

cc: Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee Members
Jean Guzzetti, Legislative Analyst and Jon Clark, Esq., OPLA Deputy Director