

PROMPT PAYMENT POLICY STATEMENT

Section 504.1 Purpose and applicability.

(a) The purpose of this Part is to implement section 2880 of the Public Authorities Law by detailing NYSERDA's policy for making payment promptly on amounts properly due and owing by NYSERDA under contracts. This Part constitutes NYSERDA's prompt payment policy statement as required by that section.

(b) This Part generally applies to payments due and owing by NYSERDA to a person or business in the private sector under a contract it has entered into with NYSERDA on or after May 1, 1988. This Part does not apply to payments due and owing:

- (1) under the Eminent Domain Procedure Law;
- (2) as interest allowed on judgments rendered by a court pursuant to any provision of law except Section 2880 of the Public Authorities Law;
- (3) to the Federal government; to any state agency or its instrumentalities; to any duly constituted unit of local government, including but not limited to counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts, special districts or any of their related instrumentalities; to any other public authority or public benefit corporation; or to its employees when acting in, or incidental to, their public employment capacity;
- (4) if NYSERDA is exercising a legally authorized set-off against all or part of the payment; or
- (5) if other State or Federal law or rule or regulation specifically requires otherwise.

Section 504.2 Definitions. As used in this Part, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context shall indicate another or different meaning or intent:

- (a) "NYSERDA" means the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.
- (b) "Contract" means an enforceable agreement entered into between NYSERDA and a contractor.
- (c) "Contractor" means any person, partnership, private corporation, or association:
 - (1) selling materials, equipment or supplies or leasing property or equipment to NYSERDA pursuant to a contract;
 - (2) constructing, reconstructing, rehabilitating or repairing buildings, highways or other improvements for, or on behalf of, NYSERDA pursuant to a contract; or
 - (3) rendering or providing services to NYSERDA pursuant to a contract.

(d) "Date of payment" means the date on which NYSERDA requisitions a check from its statutory fiscal agent, the Department of Taxation and Finance, to make a payment.

(e) "Designated payment office" means the Office of NYSERDA's Controller, located at 17 Columbia Circle, Albany, New York 12203-6399.

(f) "Payment" means provision by NYSERDA of funds in an amount sufficient to satisfy a debt properly due and owing to a contractor and payable under all applicable provisions of a contract to which this Part applies and of law, including but not limited to provisions for retained amounts or provisions which may limit NYSERDA's power to pay, such as claims, liens, attachments or judgments against the contractor which have not been properly discharged, waived or released.

(g) "Prompt payment" means a payment within the time periods applicable pursuant to Sections 504.3 through 504.5 of this Part in order for NYSERDA not to be liable for interest pursuant to Section 504.6.

(h) "Payment due date" means the date by which the date of payment must occur, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 504.3 through 504.5 of this Part, in order for NYSERDA not to be liable for interest pursuant to Section 506.

(i) "Proper invoice" means a written request for a contract payment that is submitted by a contractor setting forth the description, price or cost, and quantity of goods, property or services delivered or rendered, in such form, and supported by such other substantiating documentation, as NYSERDA may reasonably require, including but not limited to any requirements set forth in the contract; and addressed to NYSERDA's Controller, marked "Attention: Accounts Payable," at the designated payment office.

(j)

(1) "Receipt of an invoice" means:

(i) if the payment is one for which an invoice is required, the later of:

(a) the date on which a proper invoice is actually received in the designated payment office during normal business hours; or

(b) the date by which, during normal business hours, NYSERDA has actually received all the purchased goods, property or services covered by a proper invoice previously received in the designated payment office.

(ii) if a contract provides that a payment will be made on a specific date or at a predetermined interval, without having to submit a written invoice the 30th calendar day, excluding legal holidays, before the date so specified or predetermined.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision, if the contract requires a multifaceted, completed or working system, or delivery of no less than a specified quantity of goods, property or services and only

a portion of such systems or less than the required goods, property or services are working, completed or delivered, even though the Contractor has invoiced NYSERDA for the portion working, completed or delivered, NYSERDA will not be in receipt of an invoice until the specified minimum amount of the systems, goods, property or services are working, completed or delivered.

(k) "Set-off" means the reduction by NYSERDA of a payment due a contractor by an amount equal to the amount of an unpaid legally enforceable debt owed by the contractor to NYSERDA.

Section 504.3 Prompt payment schedule. Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation or in Sections 504.4 and 504.5 of this Part, the date of payment by NYSERDA of an amount properly due and owing under a contract shall be no later than 30 calendar days, excluding legal holidays, after such receipt.

Section 504.4 Payment procedures.

(a) Unless otherwise specified by a contract provision, a proper invoice submitted by the contractor to the designated payment office shall be required to initiate payment for goods, property or services. As soon as any invoice is received in the designated payment office during normal business hours, such invoice shall be date-stamped. The invoice shall then promptly be reviewed by NYSERDA.

(b) NYSERDA shall notify the contractor within 15 calendar days after receipt of an invoice of:

- (1) any defects in the delivered goods, property or services;
- (2) any defects in the invoice; and
- (3) suspected improprieties of any kind.

(c) The existence of any defects or suspected improprieties shall prevent the commencement of the time period specified in Section 504.3 until any such defects or improprieties are corrected or otherwise resolved.

(d) If NYSERDA fails to notify a contractor of a defect or impropriety within the fifteen calendar day period specified in subdivision (b) of this section, the sole effect shall be that the number of days allowed for payment shall be reduced by the number of days between the 15th day and the day that notification was transmitted to the contractor. If NYSERDA fails to provide reasonable grounds for its contention that a defect or impropriety exists, the sole effect shall be that the payment due date shall be calculated using the original date of receipt of an invoice.

(e) In the absence of any defect or suspected impropriety, or upon satisfactory correction or resolution of a defect or suspected impropriety, NYSERDA shall make payment, consistent with any such correction or resolution and the provisions of this Part.

Section 504.5 Exceptions and extension of payment due date. NYSERDA has determined that, notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 504.3 and 504.4 of this Part, any of the following facts or circumstances, which may occur concurrently or consecutively, reasonably justify extension of the payment due date:

(a) If the case of a payment which a contract provides will be made on a specific date or at a predetermined interval, without having to submit a written invoice, if any documentation, supporting data, performance verification, or notice specifically required by the contract or other State or Federal mandate has not been submitted to NYSERDA on a timely basis, then the payment due date shall be extended by the number of calendar days from the date by which all such matter was to be submitted to NYSERDA and the date when NYSERDA has actually received such matter.

(b) If an inspection or testing period, performance verification, audit or other review or documentation independent of the contractor is specifically required by the contract or by other State or Federal mandate, whether to be performed by or on behalf of NYSERDA or another entity, or is specifically permitted by the contract or by other State or Federal provision and NYSERDA or other entity with the right to do so elects to have such activity or documentation undertaken, then the payment due date shall be extended by the number of calendar days from the date of receipt of an invoice to the date when any such activity or documentation has been completed, NYSERDA has actually received the results of such activity or documentation conducted by another entity, and any deficiencies identified or issues raised as a result of such activity or documentation have been corrected or otherwise resolved.

(c) If an invoice must be examined by a State or Federal agency, or by another party contributing to the funding of the contract, prior to payment, then the payment due date shall be extended by the number of calendar days from the date of receipt of an invoice to the date when the State or Federal agency, or other contributing party to the contract, has completed the inspection, advised NYSERDA of the results of the inspection, and any deficiencies identified or issues raised as a result of such inspection have been corrected or otherwise resolved.

(d) If appropriated funds from which payment is to be made have not yet been appropriated or, if appropriated, not yet been made available to NYSERDA, then the payment due date shall be extended by the number of calendar days from the date of receipt of an invoice to the date when such funds are made available to NYSERDA.

Section 504.6 Interest eligibility and computation. If NYSERDA fails to make prompt payment, NYSERDA shall pay interest to a contractor on the payment when such interest computed as provided herein is equal to or more than ten dollars. Interest shall be computed and accrue at the daily rate in effect on the date of payment, as set by the New York State Tax Commission for corporate taxes pursuant to Section 1096(e)(1) of the Tax Law. Interest on such a payment shall be computed for the period beginning on the day after the payment due date and ending on the date of payment.

Section 504.7 Sources of funds to pay interest. Any interest payable by NYSERDA pursuant to this Part shall be paid only from the same accounts, funds, or appropriations that are lawfully available to make the related contract payment.

Section 504.8 Incorporation of prompt payment policy statement into contracts. The provisions of this Part in effect at the time of the creation of a contract shall be incorporated into and made a part of such contract and shall apply to all payments as they become due and owing pursuant to the terms and conditions of such contract, notwithstanding that NYSERDA may subsequently amend this Part by further rulemaking.

Section 504.9 Notice of objection. Unless a different procedure is specifically prescribed in a contract, a contractor may object to any action taken by NYSERDA pursuant to this Part which prevents the commencement of the time in which interest will be paid by submitting a written notice of objection to NYSERDA. Such notice shall be signed and dated and concisely and clearly set forth the basis for the objection and be addressed to the Vice President, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, 17 Columbia Circle, Albany, New York 12203-6399. The Vice President of NYSERDA, or his or her designee, shall review the objection for purposes of affirming or modifying NYSERDA's action. Within 15 working days of the receipt of the objection, the Vice President, or his or her designee, shall notify the contractor either that NYSERDA's action is affirmed or that it is modified or that, due to the complexity of the issue, additional time is needed to conduct the review; provided, however, in no event shall the extended review period exceed 30 working days.

Section 504.10 Judicial Review. Any determination made by NYSERDA pursuant to this Part which prevents the commencement of the time in which interest will be paid is subject to judicial review in a proceeding pursuant to Article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules. Such proceedings shall only be commenced upon completion of the review procedure specified in Section 504.9 of this Part or any other review procedure that may be specified in the contract or by other law, rule, or regulation.

Section 504.11 Court action or other legal processes.

(a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the liability of NYSERDA to make an interest payment to a contractor pursuant to this Part shall not extend beyond the date of a notice of intention to file a claim, the date of a notice of a claim, or the date commencing a legal action for the payment of such interest, whichever occurs first.

(b) With respect to the court action or other legal processes referred to in subdivision (a) of this section, any interest obligation incurred by NYSERDA after the date specified therein pursuant to any provision of law other than Public Authorities Law Section 2880 shall be determined as prescribed by such separate provision of law, shall be paid as directed by the court, and shall be paid from any source of funds available for that purpose.

Section 504.12 Amendments. These regulations may be amended by resolution of NYSERDA, provided that the Chair, upon written notice to the other Members of NYSERDA, may from time to time promulgate nonmaterial amendments of these regulations.