

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

**THE RHODE ISLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING PARTNERSHIP  
(RESP)**

**In August 2011 the University of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for the Renewable Energy Siting Partnership (RESP) project. Funding for the RESP is from an ARRA-SEP DOE Grant administered through the Office of Energy Resources. The State of Rhode Island and many of its communities are considering investing in renewable energy infrastructure. The University of Rhode Island (URI) has provided technical expertise about the effects renewable energy may have on the people, wildlife and natural resources of Rhode Island. Based on this information, and through extensive public involvement, a URI team of skilled professionals in the fields of energy, research and planning have developed guidelines that can be used by Rhode Island's cities and towns to site and manage this new activity. Additionally, the RESP project will make state and municipal energy information accessible to the public through a comprehensive online energy database.**

**The RESP has provided a stakeholder process to engage key**

**constituencies and interested citizens. Stakeholder group members and meeting attendees have voiced their concerns and issues, provided thoughtful input, and learned about renewable energy research in Rhode Island.**

**The RESP is not an advocacy effort. It brings science and lessons learned from other places to the table and builds on the multiple renewable energy efforts underway in so municipalities and the state can make informed, fact-based decisions.**

**The Office of Energy Resources is pleased to offer the following DRAFT documents for public comment. The RESP team encourages all stakeholders and residents of Rhode Island to review these products and submit comments using the online comment forms described below. The public comment period will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 31, 2012.**

**Links to download PDF files for the products can be accessed along the left hand side of the following web page: <http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/resp/comment.html>. The DRAFT documents being released for public comment include:**

- 1) Volume 1. Summary Report**
- 2) Volume 2. Technical Reports**
- 3) Volume 3. Siting Guidelines**
- 4) Rhode Island Energy Website [www.rienergy.org](http://www.rienergy.org)**

**The RESP website offers an online form for submitting comments on the draft documents: <http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/resp/comment.html>.**

**All commenters are welcome and encouraged to use this online form.**

**In addition to the online form, a link has been provided in the upper left corner of the webpage to download a “Comment Template” in MS Word format that can be used to organize multiple comments. If the Comment Template is used, there is a field within the online comment form that allows attachment of the completed file (the “Browse...” button can be used to attach your completed file). Written comments may also be submitted by mail to: Teresa Crean, Project Manager, University of Rhode Island, Coastal Resources Center - MRB Rm 108A, 220 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882 or by hand-delivery at the two workshops.**

**In addition, two state-sponsored public workshops will be held on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 and Wednesday, August 22, 2012 from 6 - 8 PM, Corless Auditorium, URI Bay Campus. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the RESP DRAFT documents and hear public comments.**

**The Office of Energy Resources and the RESP team thank you for your interest in this effort, and looks forward to receiving comments on the DRAFT documents.**

**Any individual requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the workshops should contact James A. Pitazzi, Jr. at 222-6395 (voice) or #711 (R.I. Relay) at least three (3) business days prior to the workshop.**

**Signed this 10th day of July 2012**

**Ronald N. Renaud**

**Executive Director**

**Department of Administration**