THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DE 15-271

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES

Examination of Electric Distribution Utility Interconnection and Queue Management Processes for Net-Metered Customer-Generators

ORDER OF NOTICE

By memorandum dated June 19, 2015, Staff of the Sustainable Energy Division of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), recommended that the Commission open an investigation or other appropriate proceeding to examine the meaning and effect of the phrase "first-come, first-served" with respect to the 50 megawatt aggregate requirement for net energy metering tariff availability under RSA 362-A:9, I. Staff noted that the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative has already exceeded its share of the statutory net metering limit, and the other utilities appeared to be approaching their respective share of the limit, based on their queued applications, due to the recent increase in proposed solar photovoltaic installations and hydroelectric plants switching to group net metering. The potential objective of this proceeding would be to develop uniform, just, and reasonable guidelines for utility management of net metering applicant queues, as well as examining interconnection requirements, to determine whether uniform interconnection queue management procedures would be useful in managing net metering applicant queues.

Having reviewed Staff's memorandum, the Commission opens a docket, pursuant to RSA 374:4 and 374:7, to examine on a generic basis the customer-generator interconnection and net metering queue management procedures of the electric distribution utilities, and potential

modifications to these procedures to achieve uniform, just, and reasonable processing of customer-generator applications in the context of the strong and growing interest in utility net metering programs. This proceeding also will include Commission review and potential interpretation of the phrase "first come, first-served," as used in RSA 362-A:9, I and N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 903.02(b), as well as potential changes in electric distribution utility procedures that may be warranted consistent with any such interpretation.

The proceeding shall commence with a stakeholder technical session, which will be open to participation by representatives of customer-generators, their customers and group members, renewable energy project developers, system installers, relevant trade organizations, the electric distribution utilities, and other interested persons. Participation in the initial technical session shall not make a person a full party in the proceeding.

The electric distribution utilities regulated by the Commission shall participate as mandatory parties to this proceeding. Other interested persons may seek permission to intervene, as described in the ordering paragraphs below. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

This Order, the Commission Staff memorandum to which it refers, and any subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at www.puc.nh.gov.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that an initial Stakeholder Technical Session be held on July 21, 2015 at 1:30 p.m., at the offices of the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, to review and discuss the issues raised in the proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on July 30, 2015 at 1:30 p.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to relevant matters and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, the electric distribution companies, Commission Staff, and any intervenors hold a Technical Session to review relevant matters and to develop a procedural schedule for the proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the Commission shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than July 13, 2015, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 28, 2015; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to the Office of the Consumer Advocate and all parties listed on the Commission's service list for this proceeding on or before July 28, 2015, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before July 30, 2015.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventh day of July,

2015.

Debra A. Howland Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov allen.desbiens@nu.com

amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov

barbara.bernstein@puc.nh.gov

Christina.Martin@oca.nh.gov

christopher.goulding@nu.com

david.wiesner@puc.nh.gov

debski@unitil.com

denise.mckeen@puc.nh.gov

elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov

epler@unitil.com

grant.siwinski@puc.nh.gov

james.brennan@oca.nh.gov

jill.fitzpatrick@libertyutilities.com

jon.osgood@puc.nh.gov

kaminski@nhec.com

karen.cramton@puc.nh.gov

lemayg@nhec.com

manypennyh@nhec.com

matthew.fossum@eversource.com

mdean@mdeanlaw.net

michael.sheehan@puc.nh.gov

michael.sisto@puc.nh.gov

ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov

palma@unitil.com

richard.labrecque@eversource.com

Stephen.Eckberg@puc.nh.gov

Stephen. Hall @ liberty utilities. com

susan.chamberlin@oca.nh.gov tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with: DEBRA A HOWLAND

EXEC DIRECTOR

NHPUC

21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10 CONCORD NH 03301-2429

- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.

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dwirth@perkinshomecenter.com

Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov

amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov

aalawa@nuwattenergy.com debski@unitil.com al@essexhydro.com deccybaby@gmail

albert@snowdragon-re.com denise.mckeen@puc.nh.gov albert@snowdragonsolar.com dick@davishydro.com allen.desbiens@nu.com donoghue@norwitech.com

andrew@nhsolargarden.com eemerson@ppeclaw.com
ayerelectricllc@metrocast.net elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov
barbara.bernstein@puc.nh.gov emcconnell@kfwlaw.com

bfurlone@furlonellc.com epler@unitil.com

bgrace@seadvantage.com erconnor@kinsmencorp.net

brandy.chambers@nh.gov fuat.ari@blsus.com

carmine.luongo@libertyutilities.com george.horrocks@harmonyenergyworks.com

cbell@solarsourcene.com glandau@cq.com

cfuerst@durhamboat.com grant.siwinski@puc.nh.gov
Christina.Martin@oca.nh.gov greentech@comcast.net
christopher.dundorf@2krsystems.com gregory.blake@comcast.net
christopher.goulding@nu.com gsha@essexhydro.com

clayaz23@gmail.com heather@revisionenergy.com

craig@plymouthenergy.org info@dawnsolar.com

david@smartenergyne.com info@spreadthesunshine.com

dbagley@catamountsolar.com irvingre@yahoo.com dclapp@revisionenergy.com jack@revisionenergy.com

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jack@seasolarstore.com
james.brennan@oca.nh.gov
james@gessolarstore.com
jen@revisionenergy.com
jharrison@borregosolar.com
jhaydock@waterlineae.com
jill.fitzpatrick@libertyutilities.com

john.ramsey55@gmail.com johnjcall@comcast.net jon.osgood@puc.nh.gov jonspenceralgae@gmail.com

kaminski@nhec.com
kate@nhsea.org
kchvic@comcast.net
ketraum@gmail.com
kim@fraseelectric.com
kimry@revisionenergy.com

kristi.davie@nu.com kroll@gcglaw.com

kurtpenney@ircmaine.com kurtpenney@ircmaine.com

lemayg@nhec.com lois.jones@nu.com

Irichardson@jordaninstitute.org lutz@londoneconomics.com manypennyh@nhec.com

mark@newenglandcleanenergy.com matthew.fossum@eversource.com maureenreno@truelightenergy.com

mdavey@eeiservices.com mdean@mdeanlaw.net Meredith.hatfield@nh.gov michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov michael.sheehan@puc.nh.gov michael.sisto@puc.nh.gov mmiller@soltage.com molly.kelly@leg.state.nh.us

moselectricandsolar@yahoo.com

mweissflog@kwmanagement.com newton@trulight.biz

nkershaw@elmgrovecompanies.com

onpointenergy@yahoo.com
pilgrim@ccenergy.com
pjonessped@aol.com
rag@orr-reno.com
ran@essexhydro.com
raney@avidsolar.com
raney@solarlumix.com
rdion@demandelec.com
rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov
richard.labrecque@nu.com
sandra@plymouthenergy.org
scondon@revisionenergy.com

sea@seasolarstore.com shane@trulight.biz

Stephen.Hall@libertyutilities.com

steve@tree-free.com

steveh@revisionenergy.com stevehinchman@gmail.com

steven.mullen@libertyutilities.com support@freedomrenewable.com susan.chamberlin@oca.nh.gov suzanne.amidon@puc.nh.gov Thale Jacobs@yahoo.com

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thomastgarden@gmail.com tim@prudentliving.com tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov vladimir.hromis@blsus.com wcole@bluesel.com will@bostonsolar.us

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