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1	STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE	
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2	PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	
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4	November 9, 2020 - 10:26 a.m.	
5	[Remote hearing conducted via Webex]	
6		
7	RE: DE 20-170 ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES	
8	ELECTRIC VEHICLE TIME OF USE RATES (HEARING)	
9	(HEARING)	
10	PRESENT: Chairwoman Dianne Martin, Presiding Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey	
11		
12	Jody Carmody Eric Wind, PUC Remote Hearing Host	
13	APPEARANCES: Reptg. Eversource Energy Matthew J. Fossum, Esq.	
14	Jessica Chiavara, Esq.	
15	Reptg. Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.: Carleton B. Simpson, Esq.	
16	Reptg. Liberty Utilities:	
17	Michael J. Sheehan, Esq.	
18	Reptg. Clean Energy NH: Madeleine Mineau	
19		
20	Reptg. Conservation Law Foundation: Nicholas A. Krakoff, Esq.	
21	Reptg. NH Dept. of Environ.Services: Rebecca Ohler, Esq.	
22	- -	
23	Reptg. ChargePoint, Inc.: Melissa E. Birchard, Esq.	
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                     APPEARANCES (CONT'D)
 2
 3
                   Reptg. City of Lebanon:
                   Clifton Below
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                   Reptg. NECSEMA:
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                   Brian P. Moran
 6
                   Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:
                   D. Maurice Kreis, Esq., Consumer Adv.
 7
                   Reptg. PUC Staff:
8
                   Brian D. Buckley, Esq.
9
10
    Court Reporter: Susan J. Robidas, NH LCR No. 44
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CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Let's go on the record. We're here this morning in Docket

DE 20-170 for a prehearing conference regarding the electric vehicle time of use rates. We need to make findings because this is a remote hearing.

As Chairwoman of the Public Utilities Commission, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order No. 12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this hearing which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are utilizing Webex for this electronic hearing. All members of the Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this hearing, and the public has

access to contemporaneously listen and, if 1 2 necessary, participate. We previously gave notice to the 3 public of the necessary information for 4 accessing the hearing in the Order of Notice. 5 If anybody has a problem during this hearing, 6 7 please call (603)271-2431. In the event the public is unable to access the hearing, this 8 hearing will be adjourned and rescheduled. 9 10 We'll take roll call attendance of 11 the Commission. My name's Dianne Martin. I'm the Chairwoman of the Public Utilities 12 Commission, and I am alone. 13 Commissioner Bailey. 14 15 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Good morning. 16 Commissioner Kathryn Bailey, and I am alone. 17 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right. Thank you. 18 19 Let's take appearances. And we 20 have quite a group here, so if I miss 21 anybody, please let me know at the end. 22 Let's start with Mr. Fossum.

first. Matthew Fossum here for Public

Flattered I get to go

MR. FOSSUM:

23

24

1 Service Company of New Hampshire, doing 2 business as Eversource Energy. And I'm joined this morning by Jessica Chiavara, also 3 with Eversource. 4 5 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank 6 you. 7 And Mr. Simpson, are you counsel in 8 this case? 9 MR. SIMPSON: Good morning, Chairwoman Martin. Carleton Simpson here on 10 11 behalf of Unitil Energy Systems, 12 Incorporated. 13 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank 14 you. 15 And Mr. Sheehan, there you are. MR. SHEEHAN: Good morning. 16 I'm Mike Sheehan for Liberty Utilities, Granite 17 State Electric corp. 18 19 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right. 20 Thank you. 21 And Ms. Mineau. 22 MS. MINEAU: Thank you, 23 Commissioner. My name is Madeleine Mineau, 24 and I'm executive director of Clean Energy

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1
         New Hampshire.
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
2
                                        Okay.
         Krakoff.
3
                    MR. KRAKOFF:
                                  Good morning,
4
         Chairwoman. My name is Nick Krakoff.
5
                                                  I'm a
         staff attorney with Conservation Law
6
7
         Foundation, and I'm appearing by myself
8
         today.
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                        I apologize for
9
         mispronouncing your name.
10
11
                    MR. KRAKOFF:
                                  No problem.
                                                It's not
         the first time.
12
13
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                        And Ms. Ohler.
14
                    MS. OHLER:
                                Good morning.
                                                I'm
         Rebecca Ohler with the New Hampshire
15
16
         Department of Environmental Services.
17
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                        Okay.
18
         you.
                    Ms. Birchard.
19
20
                    MS. BIRCHARD:
                                   Yup. Good morning,
21
         Chairwoman Martin and Commissioner Bailey.
22
         I'm Melissa Birchard from the law firm of
23
         Keyes & Fox, representing ChargePoint,
24
         Incorporated today. And with me today is
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1	Matthew Deal, public policy manager for
2	ChargePoint.
3	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you. And
4	Mr. Below.
5	MR. BELOW: Good morning. I'm
6	Assistant Mayor Clifton Below of the City of
7	Lebanon, here on behalf of the City of
8	Lebanon. And my video seems to have just
9	turned off.
10	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Yes, I did lose
11	your video. Oh, you're back.
12	And Commissioner Bailey, I don't
13	see you.
14	COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I don't see
15	you anymore either.
16	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: So it's
17	probably a feed problem. I'm going to keep
18	going so long as you can hear or see
19	COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yeah, I can
20	see everything, and I can see my background,
21	but I don't see myself.
22	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Now I
23	can see your background, but not you.
24	And Mr. Moran.
	{DE 20-170} [PREHEARING CONFERENCE] {11-09-20}

MR. MORAN: Good morning, Chairman 1 Martin, Commissioner Bailey. My name's Brian 2 Moran with the New England Convenience Store 3 and Energy Marketers Association, and I am 4 alone on the second floor of my house. 5 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: 6 Okay. 7 you. 8

And Mr. Kreis.

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MR. KREIS: Good morning, Chairwoman Martin, Commissioner Bailey, colleagues. I am D. Maurice Kreis, the Consumer Advocate, here on behalf of residential utility customers.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank you.

And Mr. Buckley.

MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Chairwoman Martin and Commissioner Bailey. My name is Brian D. Buckley, and I am appearing on behalf of Commission Staff. I am joined virtually by my colleagues from the Electric Division, Elizabeth Nixon and Richard Chagnon. And I might be mistaken, but I'm not sure if we addressed DES yet.

1	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Yes, we did.
2	MR. BUCKLEY: Okay. Thank you.
3	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Did I miss
4	anybody else?
5	[No verbal response]
6	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay.
7	MR. SIMPSON: Chairwoman Martin, I
8	would also note that on behalf of Unitil
9	Energy Systems, Incorporated, we're also
10	joined by Justin Eisfeller, our
11	vice-president of information technology;
12	Mark Lambert, our vice-president of customer
13	operations; and Chris Goulding, our director
14	of rates and revenue requirements. Thank
15	you.
16	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Welcome.
17	Thank you for that.
18	Okay. Any preliminary matters
19	before we give initial positions?
20	[No verbal response]
21	MR. BUCKLEY: None that Staff is
22	aware of.
23	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. I just
24	want to make sure Commissioner Bailey can

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1
         still hear.
                    Commissioner Bailey, can you hear
2
         me?
3
               [No verbal response]
4
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Mr. Wind, have
5
         you heard from her?
6
7
                    MR. WIND:
                               I have not.
8
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Let's go off
         the record for a minute, please.
9
               (Discussion off the record.)
10
11
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Let's go back
         on the record.
12
                    Mr. Sheehan, you had an issue to
13
14
         raise?
15
                    MR. SHEEHAN:
                                  I just wanted the
16
         Commission to address the motions to
17
         intervene. I don't think anyone's going to
         object, but we should probably check that
18
19
         box.
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
20
                                         We have a
21
         number of motions to intervene, and I think
22
         some have been very recently filed.
                                                I have
23
         CLF, DES, Clean Energy New Hampshire,
24
         ChargePoint, New England Convenience Store
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1
         and Energy Marketers Association, and the
         City of Lebanon. Have I missed any?
2
         anybody wish to be heard on those?
3
                    MR. KRAKOFF: Sorry, Chairwoman.
4
5
         Did you mention Conservation Law Foundation?
         I'm not sure I heard that.
6
7
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                        They were first
         on my list. So if I didn't mention them, it
8
         was an oversight when I was reading the list.
9
                    MR. KRAKOFF:
                                  Okay.
                                         I guess I just
10
11
         didn't hear you.
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
12
                                        Okay.
                    MS. CARMODY: Chairwoman Martin,
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14
         can I have you read those off again, please?
15
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                        Sure.
                                                CLF,
16
         DES, Clean Energy New Hampshire, ChargePoint,
17
         New England Convenience Store and Energy
         Marketers Association and City of Lebanon.
18
19
                    MS. CARMODY:
                                  Thank you.
20
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Did I miss any?
21
                    MR. BUCKLEY:
                                  Staff doesn't believe
22
         so.
23
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                        Can you still
24
         hear me, everyone?
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1	ATTENDING PARTIES: Yes.
2	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. I'm
3	going to continue. Everyone has frozen. I'm
4	going to
5	MR. WIND: It appears to me we have
6	fully lost Commissioner Bailey.
7	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Why don't we go
8	off the record. I'm going to try to come
9	back in because I also have a "circle of
10	death" as they call it. So I'll go out and
11	come back in.
12	(Pause in proceedings)
13	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Let's go back
14	on the record.
15	Mr. Sheehan, you had raised the
16	issue of the motions to intervene. I had
17	read the list of what I had currently filed.
18	Is there anyone present who intervened that I
19	did not mention?
20	[No verbal response]
21	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Hearing
22	none, any objections to the interventions
23	that have been filed?
24	[No verbal response]

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Hearing none, the Commission will grant the pending motions to intervene, finding that it would be in the interest of justice and would not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding.

With that, any other preliminary matters we need to discuss?

[No verbal response]

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Hearing none, let's take initial positions and start with Eversource. Mr. Fossum.

MR. FOSSUM: Yes. Good morning again. So, speaking on behalf of Eversource, we have reviewed the Commission's Order of Notice, as well as the underlying order, and recognize this docket as the follow-up to continue work on the EV time of use issues. And we're here prepared to work with the Staff and others on the items identified. Ultimately, the time lines for what gets accomplished in this docket will depend on the scope of the evaluation and the level of details sought. And so we will be looking at

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those. While some things may be able to happen relatively quickly, some will certainly take longer. We'll work to understand what information and analysis we've provided in the short term to support the move toward longer-term goals.

I'll note also that there's a measure of overlap between this case and the rate case settlement that is pending before the Commission now regarding Eversource's Assuming ultimately that that rate case. settlement would be approved, that settlement contains a provision relating to an advanced metering functionality study. While the focus of that study may not overlap entirely with what is anticipated in this docket, there may be some degree of overlap. we'll want to be sure to understand how these relate to each other and whether the work on one may be leveraged to help with the other. As part of that study, we've already been looking at some hearing alternatives potentially and considering other system issues as we look at EV TOU rates.

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Additionally, as part of the rate case settlement, Eversource has made a commitment to make a EV rate proposal within the next few months. There is a provision on the rates side for that proposal, and that provision also references this docket. much as with the metering functionality, we'll want to work to understand the parties' degree of overlap and impact of each docket and each proposal on the other. Once we have been able to do that, I think we'll be able to move forward efficiently and productively with this docket, and we stand ready to do Thank you. That's what I have. so.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Why don't we move on to Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Once again, good
morning, Chairwoman Martin, Commissioner
Bailey. I'm Carleton Simpson, the attorney
representing Unitil Energy Systems. And as I
mentioned earlier, I'm joined by Mark
Lambert, our vice-president of customer
operations; Justin Eisfeller, vice-president
of information technology; Chris Goulding,

director of rates and revenue requirements.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak with
you today regarding the development of
electric vehicle time of use rates.

The Company believes that the electric distribution utilities represent a central participant in the development of EV infrastructure and the adoption of electric vehicles to enable customer choice in the transportation market. We look forward to working with Staff and all the other participants in this docket.

As requested by Staff and the Commission in Order 26,394 following the investigation in IR 20-004, the Company's comments today will be focused on recommendations for time line filing EV time of use rate proposals, and further development of the alternative metering feasibility assessment.

In regards to a time line, Unitil believes that it's appropriate to develop stand-alone and whole facility electric vehicle rates within the context of a general

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rate case. This will ensure that the level of the rate reflects the utility's most current and representative level of embedded costs and alignment with revenues for rates from all classes. The rate structure and rate level of an EV service should be sustained using the same types of cost and non-cost considerations that are used in determining the level of class revenues and rates for the utilities' other rate and tariff offerings. Unitil strongly supports the availability of a suite of rate offerings for EV customers, including time of rate, time of use rate options. Therefore, Unitil Energy Systems intends to file a general rate case during the first half of 2021 which will definitely include an EV TOU rate proposal.

In preparation for this effort, the Company's begun the process of performance testing for time of use rates integrated in the internal systems and processes that account for different tiered structure options, weekends, holidays, seasonality and energy supply.

1	With regards to the alternative
2	metering feasibility assessment, in addition
3	to preliminary testing for rate design
4	integration, the Company's metering group is
5	working to consider metering alternatives
6	within the upcoming rate case. The Company
7	recommends that the alternative metering
8	feasibility assessment within this proceeding
9	should continue to investigate efforts in
10	other jurisdictions regarding alternative
11	electric vehicle charging station metering;
12	how alternative metering costs would be
13	implemented in rates, including the
14	integration in the utility systems;
15	incentives for off-peak charging and demand
16	reduction; and metered data sharing, quality
17	reliability and security.
18	I will now let Mark Lambert offer
19	some further comments on this matter and
20	would be glad to answer any questions. Thank
21	you.
22	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you.

{DE 20-170} [PREHEARING CONFERENCE] {11-09-20}

MR. LAMBERT: Thanks, Carleton.

Mark Lambert, vice-president of

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customer operations for Unitil. And not to take too much more of the Commissioners' time, but from a customer service perspective, you know, everybody talks about the utility of the future, and we believe that our utility customers are looking to engage more with the Company. And while that began with just simple self-service customer facing tools on the web or mobile apps, we believe that the utility's customer of the future seeks to go further than that. And we believe our customers want choice, which is why these comments I think are relative to customers having choice with different personalized rate plans. We're working to understand our customers better. And through that understanding, we think the relationship that we'll have with our customers is one that will go beyond just one customer that receives and pays a bill.

We have as a company formed several vision teams, one of which is one that I am chairing, the transformative customer solutions vision team, and it looks at

customer-facing opportunities. But one 1 thing, one part of our mission in this as we 2 build towards this longer-term vision is 3 looking at personalized rate plans for 4 This is something we're focused 5 customers. And we believe that as we look at time 6 7 of use and distributed generation rate 8 programs, what they may look like in the future for Unitil, an electric vehicle time 9 of use rate is something specifically focused 10 11 on a customer group that is rapidly growing. So when we look at evolving rate designs, as 12 we look at evaluating delivering alternatives 13 to those traditional tariffs, we call them, 14 15 we're focusing on personalized rate options 16 for specific groups. And, again, that most immediate group is for those EV customers 17 that are seeking to charge their vehicles 18 during times that are economically beneficial 19 20 to them. So, you know, from the strategy 21 side, that's where we're looking to go. 22 certainly we'll do that as a first step in an 23 upcoming rate case in 2021.

{DE 20-170} [PREHEARING CONFERENCE] {11-09-20}

So with that, I'll turn it back

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1 over to the Commission.

2 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.

3 Thank you.

Mr. Sheehan.

MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you. And good morning again. As the Commission is aware, Liberty has in place now an electric vehicle time of use rate tariff which was approved this summer in our recent rate case. Those time of use rates were -- those we adopted in the EV docket were those that were approved in the battery storage program a couple years ago. Those rates are fairly sophisticated time of use rates that have three time periods during the week, two over the weekend, and adjust distribution transmission and supply. So those are now in place.

The Company has turned its focus to EV time of use rates for commercial customers. The existing tariff is just residential, and we will focus on that.

And the Company's also willing to support and participate in the metering feasibility study that is probably going to

be addressed and conducted in this docket.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank

Ms. Mineau.

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MS. MINEAU: Thank you,

Commissioners, for the opportunity to make opening remarks before you today.

Clean Energy was an intervenor in the IR docket looking at rate design standards for electric vehicle charging. And we appreciate the opportunity to continue working on this important issue for our Clean Energy New Hampshire supports members. time of use rates as a rate design mechanism for EV charging, especially for residential customers, because this creates many benefits for the grid and EV, as well as non-EV customers. By using time of use rates, EV customers are able to make informed decisions about when to charge their vehicles, adapt their charging schedules in order to reduce their energy costs, and provide grid benefits by shifting demand to off-peak hours when

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supply is more plentiful and affordable, and this improves load factor.

Specifically, Clean Energy New Hampshire continues to support Staff's recommendation in the IR docket, which included a three-part rate with off-peak, mid-peak and critical peak periods in any time of use rate proposal considered in this docket. When compared to a two-part rate with only peak and off-peak periods, three-part rates offer significantly more incentive for customers to adopt a time of use rate and send more accurate price signals based on system costs. In addition, we strongly support a price differential of at least three to one between critical peak and off peak, as this is also an important factor for customers to adopt this type of rate. have evidence here in New Hampshire that a simpler rate may not serve the customers' needs. For example, only 39 customers took part in Eversource's previous time of use rate, which represents a very small percentage of their customer base. Their TOU

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rate is only two parts, and the price differential should have been much stronger, in our opinion. As the Company stated, there is improvement on its way, thanks to the rate case settlement.

On the other hand, Liberty's current offering for their battery storage and electric vehicle charging customers has the three-part -- peak, off peak and critical -- peak period system with a price differential roughly 3.5 to 1 between the critical peak and off-peak period. We think it is important to highlight this time of use offering as beneficial for Liberty's customers and a good model for the other utilities to consider offering their customers as well. We find it critical that all utility customers have access to well-designed time of use rates, regardless of which utility service territory they live in. We look forward to conversations with the other parties in this docket to achieve this goal.

{DE 20-170} [PREHEARING CONFERENCE] {11-09-20}

CENH also would like to highlight

that the development of TOU rates for EV charging can have other applications and broader benefits, such as whole house or whole service time of use rates. We encourage this docket to consider these applications and whether development of these rates can be extended beyond the initial use solely for EV charging, especially for EV drivers that may want to adopt TOU rates for all their energy needs.

In conclusion, CENH supports
development of EV TOU rates that provides
customers with an opportunity to make
informed charging decisions and that benefit
the grid by shifting demand to off-peak
hours. We also look forward to seeing the
outcome of the alternative metering studies
by the utilities.

Thank you. And we look forward to participating in this docket.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Krakoff.

MR. KRAKOFF: Yes. Thank you,

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Chairwoman Martin. CLF thanks the Commission for the opportunity to make a preliminary statement in this docket today. CLF looks forward to constructively participating in this docket as the Commission begins evaluating the utilities' upcoming EV TOU rate proposals. We have a few points we'd like to make at this time.

First, CLF believes that prior to the utilities submitting plans, the Commission should better clarify the scope of this docket. In particular, in the EV investigatory docket, DE 20-004, which preceded this docket, the Commission received a number of comments regarding load management techniques. Typically load management techniques are separate and not in the same category as TOU rates. However, Order No. 26,394 states that load management techniques may be an appropriate strategy for EV rate design, especially when offered in conjunction with EV TOU rate offerings. Because load management techniques are generally in a separate category from TOU

rates, the Commission's order directing the utilities to submit TOU rate proposals does not make clear if load management techniques should also be considered as part of TOU rate proposals.

So, you know, because Order 26,394 stated that load management techniques may be an appropriate strategy for EV rate design, CLF generally believes that the Commission should clarify its directive to the utilities that they file TOU rate proposals also encompasses potential load management techniques that are appropriate when offered in conjunction with TOU rate design.

We also note that for administrative efficiency purposes, it makes sense for the utilities to include load management techniques that they conclude are appropriate to be offered in conjunction with the TOU rates in this docket rather than any sort of separate docket or separate matter.

So in sum, CLF urges the Commission to clarify that its order allows the utilities to consider load management

techniques when developing EV TOU rates.

Second, in the event the Commission clarifies that its order permits the utilities to consider load management techniques, CLF strongly encourages the utilities to do so. Load management techniques advance the public interest in the beneficial electrification of the transportation sector and provides significant system benefits and system-wide cost savings. Accordingly, CLF urges the utilities to consider and include load management techniques when devising the TOU rate proposals.

On a similar note, you know, the Commission's order that preceded this docket, you know, also generally, you know, clarified my opinion whether, you know, demand charges should be considered in this docket. You know, as CLF did in the prior docket, you know, we wish to express our continuing opposition to the consideration of demand charges as part of TOU rate proposals. Order No. 26,394 stated that demand charges may be

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an appropriate rate design for high-demand You know, it was a little bit draw EVSE. unclear whether that should be considered in this docket. You know, as we said before, demand charges limit the economic feasibility of certain charging stations, such as DCFC stations, you know, especially when DCFC stations have low utilization rates. It can lead to high electricity bills which can deter investments in DCFC stations. And this is generally because when utilization is low, demand charges incurred can be greater than the revenue generated at substations, which can dramatically affect the economic viability of higher demand DCFC charging stations. While the Commission's order limits the utilities' consideration of demand charges to high-demand draw EVSE, CLF recommends that utilities avoid consideration of demand charges altogether in this docket.

CLF thanks the Commission for the opportunity to make a statement today and looks forward to participating in the docket as the utilities file their TOU rate

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         proposals in the next few months.
                                              Thank you.
2
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                         Okay.
                                                Thank
         you, Mr. Krakoff.
3
                    Ms. Ohler.
4
5
                    MS. OHLER:
                                Thank you,
         Commissioner -- I'm sorry -- Chairwoman
6
7
         Martin.
                   The Department of Environmental
         Services feels that electrification of the
8
         transportation sectors, the major source of
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         greenhouse gas emissions in the region, is a
11
         key strategy to reduce emissions that
         contribute to climate change.
12
                                          In order to
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         realize overall emissions reductions,
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         charging must occur in a way that does not
15
         increase peak demand when the older and --
16
          (connectivity issue)
17
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                         Ms. Ohler, I
         think we're losing -- we lost a little bit of
18
         the last sentence. Can you just repeat that,
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20
         please?
21
                    MS. OHLER:
                                Yes.
                                       Can you hear me?
22
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                         I can hear you,
23
         but it's just a little choppy.
24
                    MS. OHLER:
                                In order to realize
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overhaul emissions reductions, charging must occur in a way that does not increase our peak demand when the older and more polluting power plants are called on to meet that demand.

Residential time of use rates can help encourage smart charging practices by making it less expensive to charge when overall demand is lower and can also thereby help grow the electric vehicle market by lowering the cost to own and operate an EV, which will spur the rate of adoption.

DES also looks forward to exploring options for effective use of time of use rates for commercial charging applications, as well as addressing the demand charges which were previously discussed, to see how those can be structured in a way that will enable cost-effective fast charging. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Ms. Birchard.

MS. BIRCHARD: Thank you, Chairwoman.

ChargePoint looks forward to participating in this important proceeding.

We appreciate the work that the Commission, its staff, and many of the parties here today completed in Docket IR 202-004, which preceded this docket.

As the utilities have not yet filed proposals in this proceeding, ChargePoint adopts no position today. We look forward to working with the other parties and providing input into the development of the rate design proposals. We also appreciate the opportunity to consider the proposals that are ultimately put forward by the utilities.

We are additionally interested to contribute to the conversation on alternative metering. We have seen this subject addressed in other states through the adoption of standardized and effective screening criteria. In IR 20-004, we indicated our support for providing the opportunity for New Hampshire's utilities to conduct pilot programs that employ alternative metering that has been

appropriately screened in accordance with minimum criteria. Such criteria would include, for example, a high degree of meter accuracy and secure data transfer capabilities.

We look forward to further discussions on these topics and other subjects in this proceeding and thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Below.

MR. BELOW: Thank you, Chairwoman Martin. On behalf of the City of Lebanon, I collaborated closely with Liberty Utilities and the Consumer Advocate's consultant, Lon Huber, in developing the top three-part time of use rates for Liberty's battery pilot. I would note that that was developed outside of a rate case by simply designing the rates to be revenue neutral relative to a class average load shape, though recognizing that the time of use rates structure would likely cause customers to shift their load more to

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the off-peak times in the future. So that is an issue to be addressed over time.

The City itself now has a Level 2 charging station for its electric vehicle. It plans to procure more electric vehicles over time; that is, of course, behind a commercial meter. So we're interested in collaborating with Liberty and other parties to develop cost causation-based three-part time of use rates for commercial customers as And as sort of shown in Liberty's last distribution rate case, it was -- those rates were developed for the battery storage pilot. They I think were sufficiently robust, and there was consensus that they were also appropriate for EV charging. And the City believes that they should be considered on an opt-in basis for customers who want to use the rates for whole building or whole account applications as well. But, you know, that's a step down the road.

Thank you. So we look forward to working with all the parties throughout the proceeding. Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.

2 Thank you.

And Mr. Moran.

MR. MORAN: Yes. My name is Brian Moran, and I represent the New England Convenience Store and Energy Marketers Association. For those of you who are not familiar with us, we participated in the IR 20-004 docket, and our members represent approximately 900 convenience stores in Massachusetts [sic], 655 of which sell motor fuels.

NECSEMA members recognize the changing transportation fuels landscape and acknowledge the significant role EV will play. As owners of the busiest corners of the most highly trafficked roadways and commercial areas, our role in providing EV charging equipment where and when it is needed on the go will be essential. Our members offer the products and services people use, want and need. To that end, we provide gasoline and diesel because those are the transportation fuels our customers use,

not due to an obligation to fossil fuels. As the public's fuel choice evolves, we will continue to meet their needs, whatever their fuel choice is, be it electric, fuel cells or other renewable alternative fuels.

As the work of the Commission, its staff and public utilities proceeds, we respectfully offer the following comments on development of time of use charging proposals as ordered:

As an initial matter, the Commission should clearly establish the goals that it seeks to achieve through TOU rate designs for EV charging. Only by first establishing such goals and objectives can specific designs, feasibility evaluations or policy options be evaluated based on their effectiveness and overall cost of benefits. In particular, the Commission should state with specificity its goals with respect to data collection, impact on customer behavior, and impact on EV adoption metrics, such as EV miles traveled and, in accordance with RSA 378:5 and 7, ensure any rate impacts are fully

investigated by the Commission for reasonableness.

Other goals, such as reduced peak usage of the distribution system, should also be clearly identified, measured and implemented in the best interest of all ratepayers before new policies are adopted. Further, the Commission should clearly outline the metrics by which it will evaluate the effectiveness of various rate designs proposed for deployment. When determining whether rate design proposals for EV customers is appropriate, the Commission's decision-making should be governed by certain core principles that have previously guided its policy with respect to grid modernization and development of EV charging infrastructure.

The Commission should only approve such programs if they're demonstrated to be in the public interest; second, the Commission should not approve any rate designs, policies or programs that will hinder the development of competitive markets. These guiding principles are further developed in the

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specific considerations I'm going to describe below.

Policies aimed at supporting EV growth should be based on the best available data and best practices. The Commission should consider the data and information currently available for New Hampshire and other jurisdictions. It should also ensure that it reviews and continues to review a complete and balanced record of such information and is not overly reliant on theoretical information provided by electric distribution companies and EV infrastructure providers. That may require the Commission to periodically review TOU EV rates as more actual as opposed to theoretical data collected by the utility and analyzed. Commission must ensure that: TOU rate effectiveness is benefiting ratepayers; price signals in the time of use rates lead to increased EV adoption and economical charging discipline; and time of use rates and EV use lead to the desired environmental benefit to society.

Any benefit cost analysis put forth in support of those time of use EV charging rate design proposals should consider the benefits, costs and risks, to include, but not limited to, the following stakeholders: Electric utility customers, residential and commercial; EV drivers; competitive EV market participants providing Level 2 and direct current fast chargers as site hosts; and the electric distribution companies' shareholders.

When evaluating whether a proposal is in the public interest, the Commission should consider its finding that it is in the public interest for the distribution companies to prioritize EVSE site locations that are publicly accessible and that serve the public at large.

In addition, the Commission should review any proposed time of use rates in the context of the current hypercompetitive vehicle fuels market, with emphasis on customer adaptation and ratepayer benefits.

Regulatory policy, including the methods

by which rate designs are authorized, should not favor particular technologies, charging locations, market participants, rate classes or EVSE ownership models, especially utility ownership models, over others.

For any use of ratepayer funds, the

Commission should ensure that such use does

not displace market activity and that it is

not used to advantage electric distribution

companies and their shareholders over market

participants or certain technologies, sectors

or business approaches over others.

The Commission should consider ways in which time of use rates, one, impact competitive transportation markets, including EVSE; provides consistent treatment and opportunities across rate classes, charging locations, and EVSE hosts. While consistent treatment may be accomplished by offering equivalent rates across rate classes, the distribution companies might also develop proposals that offer equivalent ratepayer benefits to different groups of ratepayers according to their specific needs. For

example, where design options may provide benefits to residential customers with EVs, the distribution companies should be encouraged to also develop offerings that would provide comparable benefits to commercial and industrial ratepayers and to site hosts who support different EVSE charging technologies. Proposed direct current fast-charging demand charge discounts, for example, are provided and described in National Grid's rate case DPU 18-150 at 340. Further, there should be no special rates or utility investment incentives that would unfairly benefit utility shareholders at the expense of other competing EVSE providers, even on a limited or pilot basis.

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If the Commission authorizes time of use rates in connection with the targeted deployment of metering capabilities, it should only make those rates available to customers with separate EV meters, metering technology embedded in EV smart chargers, or otherwise implement procedures that would

allow the distribution companies to measure EV-specific electricity use. EV segregated usage information is critical to evaluate the effectiveness of time of use rate design and actual load profiles in connection with EV use and assess transportation-specific charges and taxes similar to gasoline taxes that currently fund roadway infrastructure.

NECSEMA notes that utility rate structure is only one component of the comprehensive statewide strategy to facilitate private investment and EV public charging infrastructure. The cost of installation and operation of the EV charging facility is the primary barrier for private investment in DCFCs. Demand charges are an important cost causation component, but initial infrastructure investment and installation costs, including any new time of use metering requirement, are upfront charges that impact decision-making.

The measured dissemination of local -of locational grid sweet spots, areas on the
utility's grid that might host electric

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charging stations without requiring distribution system upgrades, could be matched with current NECSEMA member sites which determine the best locations for electric charging. This encourages the electric utilities industry to work jointly with the current transportation retail fuel providers to make smart EVSE investments both upstream and downstream of the meter. Better investment principles will likely lead to more EVSE equipment where both the grid can support load and consumers would use the charging equipment. The economic and environmental benefits associated with this cooperation should improve EV adoption rates. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Moran.

Mr. Kreis.

MR. KREIS: Thank you. As we typically do in a proceeding of this type, the Office of the Consumer Advocate intends to participate enthusiastically and serve as the State's conscience with respect to the

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matters to be determined here. And by that, I mean that we intend to assure that whatever rates or rate designs emerge from this docket adhere to the classic principles of rate design that are familiar to most of the participants here; that is to say, the rates should reflect principles of cost causation and thereby avoid one rate class from subsidizing another unreasonably. should adhere to basic principles of fairness, and rates should deliver appropriate price signals to those customers subject to those rates so that the public policy objectives of the State are thereby achieved.

Now, given all of that, the Office of the Consumer Advocate is quite enthusiastic about the advent of time of use rates for electric vehicle customers. I listened carefully to what Ms. Mineau said on behalf of Clean Energy New Hampshire, and I believe that I agreed with everything she said about the particulars of time of use rate design that she identified: The

importance of having a three-part rate and the importance of rate differentials that are adequate to truly send meaningful price signals to customers so that they actually do use the grid in a way that achieves appropriate public policy objectives.

The thing that makes me
particularly enthusiastic about EV rates, or
time of use rates for electric vehicles, is
that this is a very large foot in the door of
totally embraced by the State of New
Hampshire time of use rates. They are
appropriate in most, if not all, settings
when we're talking about using the electric
grid. And so we look forward to electric
vehicles basically smashing through all of
the barriers of time of use rates and
ultimately delivering the benefit of such
rates to all customers in most every
situation.

I think that's all I have to say.

We look forward to working with all of the other parties to this docket. This is a really interesting and challenging subject,

and I'm confident that when we're done, we will have some excellent new initiatives for the Commission to consider. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank you.

And Mr. Buckley.

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MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Staff won't repeat the introductory information you've already heard from the parties today, but would note that, as may have been evident in the initial investigation, Staff is optimistic about opportunities for ratepayer savings associated with electric vehicle time of use rate offerings, while also acknowledging the importance of aligning such rates with cost causation and the other guidelines the Commission affirmed in Order No. 26,394. Staff looks forward to working with the parties in the technical session that follows this hearing to develop an initial procedural schedule that addresses the time line for the initial filings and provides an opportunity to further develop the concept of the

1 alternative net metering feasibility 2 assessment. Thank you. CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Did I 3 miss anybody? 4 [No verbal response] 5 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right. 6 7 Hearing none, Commission Bailey, did you have 8 any questions? **OUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONERS:** 9 10 BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY: 11 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I do have a question. My understanding was that one of 12 the first orders of business in the technical 13 session was to come up with a procedural 14 schedule that would determine when the time 15 16 line for filing electric vehicle time of use 17 rates would be. And I heard Mr. Simpson say they don't plan to file it until sometime in 18 the first half of next year. 19 And so I don't know who should 20 21 respond to this, but does anybody -- can 22 anybody tell me whether there are any 23 concerns with doing individual time of use rates for each company separately? 24 I know

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Liberty already has them. And I thought one of the goals of this docket was to do it together so that the rates were developed sort of consistently. So does anybody have anything they want to say about that?

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: I saw Mr.

Buckley's hand up. Commissioner Bailey, if you want to recognize him, go right ahead.

COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay. Mr. Buckley, please.

MR. BUCKLEY: Yes. From Staff's perspective, we had the same understanding, that the intention of having this singular proceeding to address all of the proposed separately metered time of use rates would provide some degree of administrative efficiency that doing so in the various rate cases probably wouldn't. And there's sort of a unique factor here, in that these time of use rates would be, you know, entirely forward-looking and based on cost causation, not necessarily based on the peak coincidence of an existing rate class. So that's what kind of makes it something that we can

consider outside of a rate case.

Having said that, I understand that Unitil is on a trajectory that is unique to the other utilities here, where Liberty and Eversource recently or are still in the process of completing rate cases and won't be back in to consider rates for at least a few years, or a couple of years.

I know that in the Staff recommendation, Staff had initially proposed 120 days. And I'm not exactly certain of, you know, if that type of number will stick or exactly when Unitil is planning on filing its rate case. But we do still continue to see the administrative efficiency of covering electric vehicle time of use rates in a single proceeding as valuable, and we would look forward to continuing that discussion with Unitil at the technical session that follows this proceeding.

COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Thank you.

Mr. Simpson, can you tell me why it needs to be in the rate case or why it would be better to include it in the rate case than

in this proceeding?

MR. SIMPSON: We've been internally planning for some time to include electric vehicle rates within our upcoming rate case. It's something that, as my comments had provided, we feel that taking a look at all of our classes of rates, and including a new class, it's best served to do that within our rate case. We certainly look forward to this proceeding and look forward to working on development of EV time of use rates with the other parties, and that would certainly inform our planning for that rate case.

In terms of the time line, I
believe it's our view that the timing is
actually -- would be quite good, given that
Liberty has a rate right now, Eversource
should be working on one within the coming
months, and that the rate case would be filed
I would say closer to the middle of that
first half of the year. So it wouldn't be
six months from now. It should be closer
than that. So we would -- this has been our
trajectory, and we're certainly open to

having further discussions about that. 1 we do plan to definitely include a time of 2 use electric vehicle rate in that rate case. 3 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Ms. Birchard. 4 5 MS. BIRCHARD: Yes. Thank you. Ι just wanted to ask a clarifying question. 6 7 It sounds like Mr. Simpson is 8 suggesting that any subsequent proposal would be based on the development of policies in 9 this docket. 10 11 Is that correct, Mr. Simpson? MR. SIMPSON: The work and efforts 12 and outcomes of this docket would certainly 13 inform any rate design for electric vehicle 14 15 time of use that we would provide in that 16 rate case and that the principles offered by the Commission in IR 20-004 would be part of 17 those considerations in developing the time 18 of use electric vehicle rate. 19 20 MS. BIRCHARD: I quess I would 21 just --22 MR. SIMPSON: We don't view those 23 as counter or working against each other, but

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that this would be part of a suite of rates

that we would be looking to develop within that proceeding.

MS. BIRCHARD: If I may, yeah, I really appreciate Unitil's interest in time of use rates. We've heard about this interest in the past, and we're very glad to hear about your interest in EV TOU rates.

But I don't -- you know, I hesitate to enter into a discussion that won't meaningfully inform the ultimate development of rate design. I would want to have -- I think the Commission would want to have clarity on that subject.

MR. SIMPSON: I would just say that the intention is not to sidestep this process or the work that was done in the investigation, but purely to provide efficiency in the context of our other rate offerings within that rate case and to definitively demonstrate to all stakeholders that electric vehicle time of use rates is something that the Company is committed to offering and that we want to do that sooner rather than later.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Commissioner
Bailey, any other questions?

COMMISSIONER BAILEY: No. I guess
I would just encourage the parties to talk
about this at the technical session and see
if you can reach agreement on the filing
time.

Mr. Simpson, it seems to me like your rate case time schedule is a little bit farther out than what we had anticipated for this proceeding, but maybe not far enough out so that if you wait until the end of this, that your rate case would be filed before decisions are made in this case about time of use rates. And my understanding was that we were going to do it together in one case so that it would be consistent among utilities. So if you could just talk about that at your tech session and see if there's any room for moving on that, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. SIMPSON: Absolutely.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank

you. Anything else that we need to cover

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1	before the technical session?
2	[No verbal response]
3	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Hearing
4	none, I just want to thank everyone for all
5	the thoughtful comments we received today.
6	It was very helpful. And we will let you get
7	off to the technical session. We're
8	adjourned. Thank you.
9	COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Thanks,
LO	everyone.
L1	(Whereupon the hearing was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.)
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I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes of these proceedings taken at the place and on the date hereinbefore set forth, to the best of my skill and ability under the conditions present at the time.

I further certify that I am neither attorney or counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action; and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially interested in this action.

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