

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 09-170

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 30, 2009, Granite State Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Public Service Company of New Hampshire and Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (collectively the “Utilities”) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a joint proposal for “Core” energy efficiency programs to be made available in 2010. The Core energy efficiency programs are funded through the Systems Benefit Charge paid by ratepayers and authorized by RSA 374-F:3, IV. In the filing, the Utilities seek to continue with certain modifications to the statewide programs previously approved by the Commission in Docket No. DE 08-120, Order No. 24,930 (January 5, 2009) and implemented during calendar year 2009.

The petition details the 2010 programs, performance targets, and budgets for each of the Utilities, including utility-specific programs. The filing contains a proposal for the measurement of demand reduction effects of the Core energy efficiency programs and for the treatment of payments made by the Independent System Operator-New England (ISO-NE) for such demand reduction effects.

In this filing, the Utilities seek to continue with the Home Energy Solutions Fuel-Blind Pilot Program approved by the Commission in Order No. 24,974 (June 4, 2009) as a 2010 Core program offering. The filing also includes information regarding the Utilities’ application for and award of funds from the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund to support programs to complement and enhance the energy savings derived from the Core programs supported by the

System Benefits Charge. In addition, the Utilities report in their filing that they have had initial discussions with staff at the Governor's Office of Energy & Planning to discuss potential collaboration on projects funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), and that these discussions will continue. Finally, the Utilities report that they are examining the potential of the Renewable Energy Fund to be used to support renewable energy systems in combination with energy efficiency to achieve maximum energy savings.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether the proposed allocation of forward capacity payments is reasonable; whether allowing the Utilities to continue with the Fuel Blind Pilot Program is reasonable; whether proposed monitoring and evaluation programs are adequate; whether current shareholder incentive mechanisms and Home Energy Assistance budget allocations remain appropriate; and whether the proposed energy efficiency programs are consistent with the relevant provision of the Electric Industry Restructuring Act (RSA 374-F:3,X), the requirements of Electric Utility Restructuring—Energy Efficiency programs, (85 NH PUC 684, Order No. 23,574 (2000)) relative to cost-effectiveness and the need for program consistency, and the public interest. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 14, 2009 at 1:30 p.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

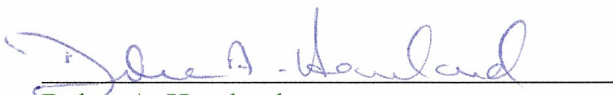
FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, the Utilities, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow the Utilities to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. 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 October 6, 2009, 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 October 14, 2009; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, 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 Utilities and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 9, 2009, 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. 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 October 14, 2009.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this first day of October, 2009.



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.