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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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April 14, 2021

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DE 14-238 and DE 11-250, Commission Staff and Staff of the Office of Strategic Initiatives – Joint Proposal for Use of the Clean Energy Fund

Dear Ms. Howland:

The Clean Energy Fund (Fund) was established in the 2015 Public Service Company of New Hampshire Restructuring and Rate Stabilization Agreement (2015 Settlement Agreement), filed on June 10, 2015 in Dockets DE 14-238 and DE 11-250. The Fund was approved by the Commission on July 1, 2016 in Order No. 25,920.

On November 10, 2020, the Commission held a public hearing and received public comment from interested stakeholders, staff of the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI),¹ Commission Staff (Staff), and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (collectively, Participants), concerning whether the joint proposal for use of the Fund is consistent with the following four criteria provided for in the 2015 Settlement Agreement at 25:

1. Support innovation in achieving clean energy benefits;
2. Leverage various sources of funds including attracting private capital to the Fund and to programs supported by the Fund;
3. Expand access to clean energy across customer classes in a cost-effective manner; and
4. Avoid undue costs.

Following the November 10 public comment hearing, pursuant to a secretarial letter issued on November 19 scheduling additional stakeholder sessions, the Participants met in virtual meetings on both December 2, 2020, and January 20, 2021 to further refine a consensus proposal for use of the Fund.

As a result of those meetings and ongoing collaboration, Staff and OSI recommend the use of the Fund described in the attached amended joint proposal (Proposal) dated February 24, 2021. The Proposal has the support of the Participants; however, there are elements of the Proposal that will

¹ At the time the 2015 Settlement Agreement was finalized, the State Department with OSI's duties was known as the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP).

need additional details. Further, in certain cases, if the proposed programs are implemented and subsequently not subscribed to by enough participating Eversource customers, those programs may need to be modified or eliminated and new programs may emerge.

As a result, the Participants request that the Commission approve certain aspects of the Proposal and then establish an ongoing stakeholder process to administer, and if necessary, modify or further develop the programs. Accordingly, on behalf of the Participants, Staff requests that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Issue a decision regarding the Proposal by order *nisi* circulated to the Participants as well as to the full service lists for Dockets DE 11-250 and DE 14-238.
2. Approve an equal allocation of Fund dollars between programs supporting residential and commercial and industrial customers (i.e., sectors).
3. Approve the following programs for use of the Fund, finding them to be consistent with the four objectives provided in the 2015 Settlement Agreement:
 - A. An on-bill financing program for Eversource residential customers funded at \$1,100,000 for projects and terms similar to those set out in the Proposal;
 - B. A battery rebate program for Eversource residential customers funded at \$750,000 with terms similar to those set out in the Proposal; and
 - C. An energy storage rebate for Eversource commercial and industrial customers funded at \$1,000,000 with terms similar to those set out in the proposal.
4. Determine that the two additional programs outlined in the Proposal are not yet sufficiently developed for a determination that they conform to the four objectives specified in the 2015 Settlement Agreement:
 - A. A low and moderate income program for Eversource residential customers funded at \$750,000; and
 - B. A financing program for Eversource commercial and industrial customers funded at \$1,600,000.
5. Open a new non-adjudicative docket for the conduct of the ongoing collaborative process and require that stakeholder process to be followed by Commission review and approval of new programs developed and proposed in that new docket.
6. Require annual reporting by Eversource as to the performance and levels of participation in each individual program, such reporting to occur in the new docket.

The Participants support the foregoing requests for Commission action on the attached Proposal for use of the Clean Energy Fund.

Sincerely,

David K. Wiesner

David K. Wiesner
Attorney for Staff

cc: Service Lists for
DE 14-238 and
DE 11-250

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