



**Public Service
of New Hampshire**

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A Northeast Utilities Company

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Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429



RE: DE 12-097, Electric Utility Customers
Investigation into Purchase of Receivables, Customer Referral and Electronic Interface
Response to Motion to Close Docket without Prejudice

Dear Ms. Howland:

Public Service Company of New Hampshire (“PSNH”) provides this letter in response to the “Motion to Close Docket without Prejudice” submitted by the Retail Energy Supply Association (“RESA”). PSNH agrees with the relief requested in the motion, but provides this separate response to clarify its position.

As noted in RESA’s motion, this docket was opened to explore whether purchase of receivables (“POR”), customer referral and electronic interface programs should be implemented in New Hampshire to support customer choice in energy supply for all residential electric utility customers and for smaller commercial electric and gas utility customers. Further, as RESA notes, it has become clear that there are considerable questions about design and implementation regarding how a POR program would work in practice within New Hampshire.

PSNH agrees that it would be helpful to close the docket at present because of the questions about design and implementation referenced by RESA. PSNH responds separately, however, to note that it does not necessarily agree that the resolution of the particular dockets cited by RESA in its Motion will be especially helpful in resolving the issues of design and implementation of the POR in New Hampshire in the future. The issues with implementing a POR are, in PSNH’s view, largely a result of issues unique to New Hampshire’s laws and regulatory framework and the circumstances of New Hampshire’s utilities. Thus, while the other

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dockets cited in RESA's motion may possibly provide some context for some future action, PSNH believes there are other issues to consider as well.

Further, as has been noted in numerous filings with the Commission, the competitive marketplace for residential and small commercial customers has only recently begun developing New Hampshire. Despite the short time, however, there has been a substantial expansion in the number of suppliers and the number of customers availing themselves of different supply options. PSNH believes it important to allow time for the market to mature and develop, and to have in place appropriate legal and regulatory processes, before determining whether a program such as a POR is necessary for supporting a competitive market in New Hampshire.

Accordingly, PSNH agrees with RESA's request to close Docket No. DE 12-097 without prejudice, and recommends that the Commission revisit the issue of whether to implement a POR program as a policy matter when the competitive market has matured, and appropriate legal and regulatory processes are in place.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Very truly yours,



Matthew J. Fossum

Cc: Service List