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A Northeast Utilities Company

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REC'D SEP 27 '13 PM 3:49

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

RE: DE 12-262 CORE Energy Efficiency Programs  
Request to Retain Changes to Home Energy Assistance Program for 2013

Dear Director Howland:

On July 26, 2013, the Commission issued Order No. 25,554 approving certain changes to the Home Energy Assistance (“HEA”) program for the CORE electric utilities. Specifically, the Commission approved:

1. An increase in the per-customer spending cap from \$5,000 to \$8,000;
2. An allowance for exceeding the \$8,000 cap for the replacement of space heating and combined space and water heating equipment; and
3. That the utilities would strive to limit the amount of funds spent on space and combined space and water hearing equipment to 25% of each utility’s HEA program annual budget.

*See* Order No. 25,554 (July 26, 2013) at 2-3. The reason for the requested changes was that previously HEA program funds had been leveraged with federal Weatherization Assistance Program (“WAP”) funds to complete various measures at customer sites. There was, however, a delay in the availability of the WAP funds that would compromise the ability of certain customers to achieve their energy efficiency goals, unless the HEA program was modified.

In approving the above changes, the Commission stated that it was doing so “on a temporary basis” and that interested parties were to consult and “develop a recommendation regarding the appropriate per household spending cap once federal funding levels are finalized and monies received.” *Id.* at 4. A filing containing a recommendation was to “accompany the quarterly report following OEP’s receipt of federal WAP funds.” *Id.*

Federal WAP funds have not yet been made available, but it is expected that the funds will begin to be distributed in October 2013. Accordingly, under the terms of Order No. 25,554, a recommendation on the HEA program would be due in the November 2013 quarterly filing. Given the short time between that filing and the end of the year, however, it was not clear that a recommendation, or any potential changes to it, could be implemented for the remainder of 2013.

Accordingly, by this submission, the CORE electric utilities are recommending that the changes implemented following Order No. 25,554 be permitted to continue through the remainder of 2013. The CORE electric utilities note that this matter was raised and discussed by interested parties at the September 16, 2013 quarterly meeting. At that meeting, the CORE electric utilities, the Office of Consumer Advocate, The Way Home, the Department of Environmental Services, the Office of Energy and Planning, the Community Action Agencies, TRC, and the Jordan Institute all agreed to recommend continuing the HEA program through the remainder of 2013 as modified in Order No. 25,554. Staff has indicated that it will file a letter supporting this recommendation.

The CORE electric utilities note that the CORE program update filing submitted on September 13, 2013 contains a recommendation on the HEA program for program year 2014. Accordingly, the Commission will have an opportunity to review and decide upon any recommendations for 2014 apart from any determination that might be necessary for the remaining months of 2013.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Very Truly Yours,



Matthew J. Fossum  
Counsel

Enclosure  
CC: Service List (electronic mail only)