
From: Fabrizio, Lynn
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 2:49 PM
Subject: IR 13-038 Stakeholder Review of Utility Assessment Practices

Attached please find Staff's 'straw proposal' for discussion at next week's technical session in Docket No. IR 13-038, Stakeholder Review of Utility Assessment Practices. We look forward to discussing this with you on Wednesday.

Please let me know if you have any questions – Lynn

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IR 13-038 Stakeholder Review of Utility Assessment Practices

Straw Proposal for Recommendations to the Commission

May 23, 2013

In Order 25,451, issued on January 13, 2013, in Docket No. DM 12-276, the Commission directed Staff to initiate a collaborative stakeholder process to review the current utility assessment system in light of statutory and industry changes since the assessment statute, RSA 363-A, was last amended. Pertinent information was compiled through solicitation of comments and technical session discussions with stakeholders. Comments were received from 10 companies and the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA). Copies of all responses are available on the Commission's website at: www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Doc/2013/13-038.html.

A technical session was held on March 12, 2013, at the Commission. Participants included representatives from FairPoint, Comcast, New England Cable & Telecommunications Association (NECTA), AT&T Corp. and TCG New Jersey, segTEL, Tech Valley Communications (TVC), Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH), Unitil, Liberty Utilities, National Grid, and the OCA. Following the technical session, NECTA and AT&T provided additional input to Staff. Staff filed a report on the status of the stakeholder review on March 29, 2013.

The following “Straw Proposal” is a suggested recommendation to the Commission to consider certain options to address the changing regulatory landscape in New Hampshire, while recognizing that regulatory oversight and management demands are increasing in areas such as competitive energy markets, renewable energy programs, consumer complaints, and document management.

- Telecommunications companies could be assessed on gross intrastate utility revenues only.
- Registration and renewal fees for competitive gas and electric suppliers and aggregators should be raised to cover Commission costs to review, monitor and maintain up-to-date accounts for each registrant, as well as to monitor and enforce compliance with Commission rules.
- Competitive gas and electric suppliers and aggregators should share adjudication costs incurred in dockets they initiate or of which they are the primary subject.
- Stricter enforcement of compliance and higher penalty levels for non-compliance with Commission rules, orders and statutes could be implemented to cover administrative costs of monitoring and enforcement.