

April 8, 2016

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director, NHPUC
21 S. Fruit St.
Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: IR 15-296, Application for membership in the Grid Modernization Working Group

Dear Ms. Howland:

Pursuant to IR 15-296, Order No. 25,877, Acadia Center hereby requests membership in the Working Group being formed by the Commission to develop appropriate regulatory policies to foster successful electricity grid modernization in New Hampshire. Acadia Center would be represented by:

Ellen Hawes
Senior Analyst, Energy Systems and Carbon Markets
47 Blood Hill Rd.
Norwich, VT 05055
ehawes@acadiacenter.org
802.649.1140

Acadia Center experts have researched and written about utility policy reforms and investments for a distributed energy future, including its 2015 resource, "UtilityVision."¹ UtilityVision is a resource for regulators and a framework for how reforms in 5 interdependent categories can be aligned to modernize the electric grid in a way that advances climate, economic, and consumer goals. UtilityVision provides recommendations in several categories that are especially relevant to the issues and questions posed by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, including the utility business model, rate-making, and customer-side energy resources.

Acadia Center has valuable expertise and experience to contribute in the Working Group on grid modernization. Acadia Center staff participated in every aspect of Massachusetts DPU docket 12-76, Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Modernization of the Electric Grid, including the Department's Grid Modernization Stakeholder Working Group in 2012-2013 whose work forms the basis for the New Hampshire Working Group, as well as the hearings and panels convened in February 2014, the benefit-cost analysis working group, and the related dockets on time-varying rates, DPU 14-04, and electric vehicles, DPU 13-182.

¹ See: <http://acadiacenter.org/utilityvision/>

In addition, Acadia Center personnel have engaged heavily in related proceedings in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York. This includes participating on a panel on grid modernization for the Connecticut General Assembly's Energy and Technology Committee. Acadia Center is the chair of Rhode Island's System Integration Committee, a group convened by the Office of Energy Resources in order to map key issues related to the future of Rhode Island's electric grid and offer recommendations for addressing opportunities, filling gaps, and gaining efficiencies in existing regulatory, legislative, and utility processes and policies governing the electric grid. The Systems Integration committee is founded on the premise that the changing nature and growth of customer resources holds significant implications for the state's electric grid, grid planners and operators, and utility regulators. Acadia Center has engaged consistently in the New York Department of Public Service proceedings on Reforming the Energy Vision (NY REV), including aspects related to the distribution system implementation plans, cost-benefit analysis, and proposed reforms to the utility business model.

Acadia Center has additional experience and expertise in matters relating to New Hampshire electric utility policy, including the ongoing docket on the establishment of an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, DE 15-137.

Acadia Center has been active in other northeastern states in researching and promoting consumer-friendly rate design that preserves incentives to use energy wisely and gives consumers greater control over energy bills. Acadia Center has participated in numerous public utility dockets relating to electric rate design, notably in Massachusetts in Dockets 14-04 and 15-155, in Connecticut Public Utility Regulatory Authority Docket No. 14-05-06, and in Rhode Island Public Utility Commission Docket No. 4568. Acadia Center staff are currently collaborating with two of the region's major utilities, consumer advocates, industrial energy consumers, and clean technology business representatives to find common ground and innovative solutions to rate design for a distributed energy world.

Given Acadia Center's combined decades of experience in matters relevant to this Working Group, Acadia Center's participation will help facilitate an appropriate result, and is in the public interest. Thank you for the opportunity to file this application, and your consideration of Acadia Center's membership in the Working Group.

Sincerely,



Ellen Hawes
Senior Analyst
ehawes@acadiacenter.org
802.649.1140