

# City of Lebanon



51 North Park Street  
Lebanon, New Hampshire 03766

April 8, 2016

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

**Re: IR 15-296, ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES,** Investigation into Grid Modernization

Dear Ms. Howland,

I am writing to provide notice of the City of Lebanon's interest in fully participating in the PUC's Grid Modernization Working Group, with City Councilor Clifton Below as the City's lead representative. We do not have an alternate to name at this point. If there are other stakeholders with similar interests, such as other municipalities or their energy committees, we stand ready to work with them to coordinate our participation to the extent necessary.

The City's interest in this matter arises from the energy policies that are part of our Master Plan, which is official City policy adopted by both our Planning Board and City Council. Here is a link to the Energy Chapter of our Master Plan:

[http://lebcity.net/Planning/Documents/master%20plan/Master%20Plan%20Final%20chapters /Chapter%2013%2013-1%20thru%2013-23.pdf](http://lebcity.net/Planning/Documents/master%20plan/Master%20Plan%20Final%20chapters%20chapter%2013%2013-1%20thru%2013-23.pdf).

Here are some key highlights from our Master Plan:

"The long term vision for Lebanon's energy future is to increase energy savings for residents, businesses, and municipal functions, to ensure a robust and stable energy economy, and to reduce the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions that result from a fossil fuel-dependent economy. The purpose of the Energy Plan is to develop near-term outcomes, strategies, and actions that lay a strong foundation for Lebanon's energy future, for the fiscal and environmental benefit and security of the City and its taxpayers.

... Key points:

- Increase energy and cost savings for the City, residents, businesses, and institutions.
- Build a robust and stable local energy economy.
- Improve energy efficiency of municipal buildings, the municipal fleet, and outdoor lights.
- Explore several promising renewable energy options in the City.
- Increase community security by becoming more reliant on local energy sources.
- Partner with businesses, institutions, and residents to significantly reduce Lebanon's overall energy use, improve efficiency, and explore alternative energy options.
- Comply with the goals of the statewide New Hampshire Climate Action Plan"

[From p. 13-1 of City Master Plan.]

***"OVERALL LONG-TERM GOAL:***

*Lebanon is a leader in energy efficiency, renewable energy reliance, and innovation across municipal, commercial, institutional, and residential sectors." (p. 13-7 Master Plan).*

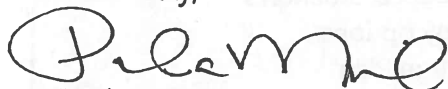
Our City has significant distributed energy resources such as landfill gas and solar PV opportunities that we hope to develop in the near future. We see that Grid Modernization could be an important aspect of helping us realize our energy and climate action vision and goals. I would also note that the City owns a fairly extensive fiber optic communications network on utility poles (just below the electric lines) with a fair amount of dark fiber that might be of use and value as part of grid modernization by saving the utility and ratepayers the cost of having the electric utility build out a similar communications network from scratch. This might be explored as a possible creative collaboration with the electric utility as part of this investigation. Similar opportunities may exist in other municipalities.

With regard to the expertise that we can offer through our proposed lead representative, Councilor Below, I note that he currently chairs our active Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee and has been involved in New Hampshire energy policy issues for most of his adult life. Throughout his 12 years in the NH House and Senate representing Lebanon he always served on energy policy committees. He was one of the principal architects of NH's ground breaking electric utility restructuring statute, RSA 375-F that helps set the framework for grid modernization in NH. During his 6 years as a PUC Commissioner he was active in NECPUC, the NARUC Energy Resources and Environment Committee, and ISO New England stakeholder processes, all of which touched on a wide range of issues related to grid modernization. He also served several years on the FERC-NARUC Smart Grid and Demand Response Collaborative and the EPRI Smart Grid and Energy Efficiency Public Advisory Council, both of which had several deep dives into grid modernization issues and he has continued to follow developments in this area.

For purposes of this investigation, Councilor Below's office mailing address is 1 Court St., Suite 300, Lebanon, NH 03766, phone # 603 448-5899, and his email address is [clifton.below@gmail.com](mailto:clifton.below@gmail.com).

I also note that our City Council has also authorized Councilor Below to participate on behalf of the City in the docket to establish new net metering tariffs expected to arise from the passage of HB 1116. That proceeding is likely to provoke a number of issues related to grid modernization. We look forward to providing a municipal perspective on these important issues. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call.

Yours truly,



Paula Maville  
Acting City Manager