



April 11, 2016

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

Re: IR 15-296, Investigation into Grid Modernization Working Group

Dear Director Howland:

Thank you for the opportunity to apply to participate in the formal Working Group that will be established in Docket 15-296, *Investigation into Grid Modernization*.

The New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association (NHSEA) and the Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC) are writing in response to the April 1, 2016 Order 25,877 on Scope and Process in docket IR 15-296. NHSEA d/b/a the New Hampshire CleanTech Council (NHCTC) and NECEC request a joint membership in the Working Group, as established and described in Order 25,877.

NHSEA and NECEC respectfully request that Kate Epsen (Executive Director of NHSEA: kate@nhsea.org, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301. Telephone: 603-777-7700) and Janet Gail Besser (VP, Policy and Government Affairs, NECEC: jbesser@necec.org, 250 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210. Telephone: 617-500-9994) be added together as joint members to the working group. Kate Epsen would serve as the lead participant and Janet Besser would serve as the alternate participant.

NHSEA d/b/a NHCTC is the largest statewide member-based non-profit in New Hampshire whose mission is to advance clean energy policies and practices. For over a decade we have helped to educate and advocate for myriad clean energy best practices, and have participated extensively in Public Utilities Commission proceedings, including DE 14-238 (Determination on PSNH's Generation Assets), DE 15-137 (Establishing an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard) and several docketed matter pertaining to the Renewable Portfolio Standard and the Renewable Energy Fund. Our NHCTC members—which include renewable energy companies, energy efficiency companies, clean tech companies, other trade associations, manufacturers, and professional firms—are concerned with all of the issues that will be addressed by this proceeding, including the engagement and incorporation of distributed energy resources, utility rate design, customer engagement, advanced metering, and utility financial models and incentives.

NECEC is the lead voice for hundreds of clean energy companies across the Northeast. NECEC's mission is to create a world-class clean energy hub in the Northeast delivering global impact with economic, energy and environmental solutions. We are the only organization in the Northeast that covers all of the clean energy market segments, representing the business perspectives of investors and clean energy companies across every stage of development. NECEC members span the broad spectrum of the clean energy industry, including energy efficiency, demand response, renewable energy, combined heat and

power, energy storage, fuel cells and advanced and “smart” technologies. We have members who are operating and investing in New Hampshire, and more are interested in doing so. NECEC has represented its members in stakeholder processes and regulatory proceedings in New Hampshire in the past, including Docket 15-137, Establishing an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard for New Hampshire. NECEC has also participated in the Massachusetts Electric Grid Modernization Stakeholder Working Group, leading a Clean Energy Caucus of stakeholders; New York’s Reforming the Energy Vision proceeding, and Rhode Island’s System Integration Rhode Island (SIRI) working group by the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources and rate modernization related proceedings at the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, as well as national dialogues on grid modernization. NECEC has also published the paper, *Leading the Next Era of Electricity Innovation: The Grid Modernization Challenge and Opportunity in the Northeast*.

NECEC and NHSEA each filed scoping comments at the opening of this proceeding; comments which recommended that this proceeding should investigate many of the issues and questions that were outlined in Order 25,877. As the members of this Working Group, both Kate and Janet bring a broad and deep knowledge of the industry. Janet is an energy policy and regulatory strategy leader with wide ranging industry experience in the Northeast as a regulator, developer, consultant, utility executive, and consumer advocate. Kate is well-versed in the regulatory and policy environs of New Hampshire, has worked as a regulator, utility consultant, and clean energy advocate for over eight years.

NHSEA dba NHCTC and NECEC will be a well-coordinated and active participant in the development of recommendations in this docket and work regularly together to advance clean energy policy in New Hampshire. They will also work collaboratively with the other parties and Commission Staff. Kate Epsen and Janet Besser will participate jointly and alternately as their respective backgrounds and knowledge prove most applicable and valuable. We will also regularly consult our member companies to ensure we are getting their input and representing their views as appropriate.

There is no other organization that can similarly represent the clean energy industry broadly, as well as bring the perspectives from similar proceedings in which each organization is, and has been, involved in other states. Since NHSEA d/b/a NHCTC and NECEC collectively represent hundreds member businesses, and individuals both in New Hampshire and across the region, no other entity or individual could accurately portray the perspectives of the clean energy industry with the same breadth and depth that we can together.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership on this important issue. We hope to be included, and would greatly look forward to participation, in the Working Group and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Kate Epsen



Janet Gail Besser

cc: Service list