



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
Governor

April 13, 2016

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

Re: Docket No. DE 16-241, Eversource Petition for Approval of Gas Capacity Contract with Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, Gas Capacity Program Details, and Distribution Rate Tariff for Cost Recovery

Dear Ms. Howland:

I am writing regarding the above referenced docket in which Eversource is seeking to recover the costs of purchased natural gas capacity through a charge on all of its New Hampshire electric distribution customers. I believe that the Public Utilities Commission should carefully consider this proposal in a broad context.

As the Commission has recognized, this case requires consideration of important short- and long-term energy, environmental, policy and economic questions. In order to fully consider all of the issues, and specifically whether it is in electric ratepayers' interests to enter long-term contracts for natural gas capacity, I strongly encourage the Commission to take a broad view and thoroughly review and examine the costs and benefits of this proposal in contrast to other alternatives, including increasing small-scale renewable energy generation and increasing investments in cost-effective energy efficiency.

The Public Utilities Commission has several planning tools available to it to undertake this thorough examination. For example, it is my understanding that Eversource currently has a Least Cost Integrated Resource Planning docket pending at the Commission. As you know, RSA 378:38 requires that we must "meet the needs of the citizens and businesses of the state at the lowest reasonable cost while providing for the reliability and diversity of energy sources; to maximize the use of cost effective energy efficiency and other demand side resources; and to protect the safety and health of the citizens, the physical environment of the state, and the future supplies of resources, with consideration of the financial stability of the state's utilities." The law also requires that the utilities undertake a meaningful planning process to ensure that its proposals to meet customers' energy needs are consistent with this policy. I know that the Commission will consider the Eversource proposal in the context of this policy, and that you will use the planning process that is underway to ensure that all options, including demand-side resources, are fully considered.

I intend to follow this docket, and the Office of Energy and Planning has sought intervention status. Thank you for your consideration of these important energy policy issues.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor