

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**Inter-Department Communication**


DATE: December 13, 2018
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: James J. Cunningham Jr.
 Utility Analyst IV- Electric Division

SUBJECT: DE 17-136 Unutil-Northern Utilities, Inc.
 2018-2020 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan
 Request for Budget Transfers and Additional Spending

TO: Commissioners
 Debra Howland, Executive Director

CC: Tom Frantz, Director – Electric Division
 Les Stachow, Assistant Director – Electric Division



On December 7, 2018, Northern Utilities notified the Commission that it expects expenditures for the Residential Energy Star® Homes and Residential GasNetworks Natural Gas Programs¹ in 2018 to exceed 120 percent of the program's original budgets.

- The Energy Star® Homes Program spending in 2018 is now expected to be \$220,000, 126 percent of the original 2018 budget of \$174,000.
- The GasNetworks Natural Gas Program spending in 2018 is now expected to be \$360,000, 123 percent of the original 2018 budget of \$293,637.

The increase in spending for these two programs is \$112,363; and, to cover this increase, Northern is planning the following actions. First, it plans to transfer \$32,963 from the Home Performance with Energy Star (HPwES) Program; second, it plans to transfer \$34,940 from the Home Energy Reports (HER) program; and, third, it plans to increase the original residential sector budget by \$44,460 (which is less than five percent of the total residential budget). Northern notes that it does not plan to change the original budget for the low-income Home Energy Assistance (HEA) program.

With respect to the above transfers, Northern is notifying the Commission pursuant to the Section 4.3 of the 2018-2020 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan² (p. 35) which states: *The NH Utilities shall provide notification to the Commission if an*

¹ Also referred to as the Energy Star® Products Program.

² http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2017/17-136/LETTERS-MEMOS-TARIFFS/17-136_2018-01-12_NH_UTILITIES_REV_EERS_PLAN.PDF

individual program's actual expenditures are forecasted to exceed 120 percent of the program's budget.

With respect to Northern's plan to increase spending, this is consistent with the Section 11.2(d) (p. 175) of the 2018-2020 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan (which provides for a cap of 5 percent of original 2018 budget): *The NH Utilities may exceed the approved residential and commercial/industrial sector budgets which include all sources of funding and do not include the performance incentive by up to 5% cap without further review or approval by the Commission. A utility may apply for approval to exceed the 5% cap demonstrating good reasons why the cap should be exceeded for the program year.*

In its notification letter, Northern asserts that its plan results in the opportunity to invest more funding, realize more savings and serve more customers than originally planned for 2018.

Staff supports Northern's plan, as described above.

cc. Service List

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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Docket #: 17-136-1 Printed: December 13, 2018

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:

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- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.

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