

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 17-136

ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES

2018-2020 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER OF NOTICE FOR 2020 PLAN UPDATE

In Order No. 26,095 (January 2, 2018), the Commission approved the 2018-2020 statewide Energy Efficiency Plan. On September 13, 2019, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, and Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (collectively, the Electric Utilities), together with Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities and Northern Utilities, Inc. (collectively, the Gas Utilities), jointly filed a 2020 Update to the 2018-2020 Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan (2020 Plan Update), which includes energy efficiency programs (including demand reduction initiatives) and related rates, for approval by the Commission. The 2020 Plan Update filing and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Dock/2017/17-136.html>.

Funding for the electric energy efficiency programs contained in the 2020 Plan Update is provided through a portion of the System Benefits Charge (SBC) paid by the Electric Utilities' customers. It is supplemented by funds available through the Independent System Operator-New England's Forward Capacity Market and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Funding for the natural gas energy efficiency programs proposed in the 2020 Plan Update is provided through a portion of the Local Distribution Adjustment Clause paid by Liberty Utilities' gas customers

and a portion of the Local Delivery Adjustment Charge (referred to collectively as LDAC) paid by Northern Utilities' customers. Any unspent funds from prior program years for both the Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities are carried forward to the following year's budget, including interest. The energy efficiency programs proposed in the 2020 Plan Update are designed to be consistently available to eligible customers across New Hampshire, subject to available budgets.

The Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities seek approval of the 2020 Plan Update in accordance with the Settlement Agreement the Commission approved in Order No. 25,932 (August 2, 2016). In this order, the Commission approved the implementation of an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) beginning in 2018, subject to Commission approval of the specific programs proposed to meet this standard. Consistent with the EERS Settlement Agreement, the Electric Utilities propose changes to the SBC, for effect January 1, 2020, to recover the cost of the 2020 energy efficiency programs contained in the 2020 Plan Update, performance incentives, and lost base revenues. The Gas Utilities seek recovery of the 2020 program costs, performance incentives, and lost base revenues through the LDACs, which are proposed for effect November 1, 2019 and are currently under review by the Commission in each gas utility's Cost of Gas proceeding.

The proposed SBC increases and the impacts on a typical residential customers' monthly bill are as follows:

<u>Utility</u>	<u>SBC Increase (\$/kWh)</u>	<u>Increase in Typical Residential Bill</u>
Eversource Energy	\$0.00167	\$1.05 or 0.8%
Liberty Utilities/GSE	\$0.00179	\$1.16 or 1.03%
NH Electric Cooperative	\$0.00155	\$0.97 or 0.8%
Unitil Energy	\$0.00176	\$1.10 or 1.0%

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 374-F:3, X and whether the proposed programs in the 2020 Plan Update are reasonable, cost effective, and in the public interest; whether the proposed programs will properly utilize funds from the Energy Efficiency Fund, as required by RSA 125-O:23; and whether, pursuant to RSA 374:2, the Electric Utilities' and Gas Utilities' proposed calculations of performance incentives and lost base revenues are just and reasonable and comply with Commission orders. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, the Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities, the Staff of the Commission, and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 1, 2019, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before October 4, 2019; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to the Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities

and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 4, 2019, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17. Parties to existing Docket No. DE 17-136 continue to be parties to this 2020 Plan Update phase and do not need to submit a petition to intervene; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 9, 2019.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-fifth day of September, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra A. Howland", is written over a horizontal line.

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

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