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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

January 2, 2019 - 10:09 a.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

NHPUC 16JAN19am9:32

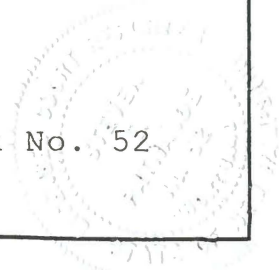
RE: **DE 17-172**
ELECTRIC UTILITIES:
Development of Renewable Energy
Fund Programs for Low and Moderate
Income Residential Customers under
Senate Bill 129 of 2017.
(Hearing to receive public comment)

PRESENT: Chairman Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding
Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey
Commissioner Michael S. Giaimo

Sandy Deno, Clerk

APPEARANCES: (No appearances taken)

Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52



CERTIFIED
ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT

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I N D E X

PAGE NO.

Summary by Ms. Schwarzer

3

STATEMENTS BY:

Mr. Kreis

7

P R O C E E D I N G

1
2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Good morning,
3 everyone. We are here in Docket 17-172, which
4 is regarding our compliance with Senate Bill
5 129 from 2017. We are here for a public
6 comment hearing. I'm going to ask Staff to do
7 a short scene-setter momentarily.

8 But, before they do that, I'll note
9 that, in addition to hearing public comment
10 orally today, we will take written comment
11 until close of business on January 9th, 2019.

12 Ms. Schwarzer, I see you over there.
13 Would you do a short setup for us, so folks
14 know what we're talking about?

15 MS. SCHWARZER: Yes. Certainly. By
16 way of background, Senate Bill 129 passed last
17 year and created a program for the PUC to
18 assist low and moderate income residential
19 consumers.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Before you go
21 any further, just to be clear, since we are now
22 in 2019, it was not last year.

23 MS. SCHWARZER: Oh. Correct.

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: It was in 2017.

1 MS. SCHWARZER: It was in 2017.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Kreis was
4 going to do that, if I didn't.

5 MS. SCHWARZER: Would you like me to
6 introduce who's with me at the table?

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sure.

8 MS. SCHWARZER: My name is Mary
9 Schwarzer. I am Staff counsel for the PUC.
10 With me this morning is Sustainable Energy
11 Division Director Karen Cramton and SED Utility
12 Analyst Tanya Wayland.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Now that we've
14 completely garbled the beginning of this
15 transcript, would you resume with the
16 scene-setter.

17 MS. SCHWARZER: Certainly. In 2017,
18 the Legislature passed Senate Bill 129 to
19 create a program for low and moderate income
20 residential consumers to benefit through
21 community solar projects specifically, but not
22 limited to, manufactured housing or
23 multi-family rental housing.

24 Last year's inaugural programs were

1 successful. They have been completed and are
2 in operation.

3 Just to summarize briefly what they
4 were: There was a Lakes Region Community
5 Developers had a project in Laconia, working
6 with Eversource; Mascoma Meadows Cooperative,
7 Inc., was in Lebanon, with Liberty Utilities;
8 and New Hampshire Solar Shares, in Plymouth,
9 worked with the New Hampshire Electric
10 Cooperative.

11 We're here today because the
12 legislation created the program, requires
13 notice and a hearing for changes to the RFP or
14 to the program. And Staff filed a
15 recommendation in December with some details
16 about the upcoming process for setting out
17 program applications.

18 The Staff recommends that we extend
19 the RFP process. It's a reliable approach to
20 ensure maximum benefits to the LMI population.
21 It permits the collection of data to assess
22 best projects and potential development of
23 alternative implementation models.

24 There's a recommendation for a

{DE 17-172} {01-02-19}

1 minimum request of 50,000 and a maximum request
2 of 200,000. In addition, different from last
3 year, Staff would like to allocate a small
4 number of points to projects that focus on the
5 moderate income population, because the bulk of
6 recipients in last year's programs, perhaps as
7 many as 90 percent, were specifically low
8 income households.

9 In addition, we would like -- Staff
10 recommends that the RFP process be approved for
11 a two-year process, state fiscal year 2019 and
12 2020. The data that is coming in to Staff to
13 look at and assess for the most recent projects
14 will not be available until February of this
15 year. And in February of 2019, they will only
16 have one month's worth of data from the 2018
17 projects. And at this time next year, when
18 we're looking into the procurement process for
19 2020, that is still the only amount of data
20 that will be available, because the annual
21 reports will not be filed until the next
22 February. So, in order to be able to look at
23 data and assess the process, Staff is asking
24 for a two-year approval period.

1 We're looking forward to hearing from
2 public commenters in written comments. As the
3 Chairman noted, we can -- parties may file
4 written comments until the close of business on
5 Wednesday, January 9th, 2019.

6 And if there are any questions, we'd
7 be happy to address them.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Well, we're here
9 to take comments from the public. The only
10 person here who doesn't work for the Public
11 Utilities Commission is the Consumer Advocate.

12 Mr. Kreis, do you have comments you
13 want to offer, either as a member of the public
14 or as the Consumer Advocate, or both?

15 MR. KREIS: I do not at present. I
16 do contemplate filing some written comments. I
17 just came here today to hear if there were any
18 concerns raised before the Commission. There
19 is a great temptation to adopt or apply the
20 principle that "if it ain't broke, don't fix
21 it." And so, our comments are likely to say
22 that.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay. Is there
24 anything, any questions from Commissioners?

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[No verbal response.]

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Anything else
you want to offer up?

[No verbal response.]

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. With
that, we will close the public comment hearing,
and again note for the record that we'll take
written comments till close of business on
January 9th. Thank you all.

MS. SCHWARZER: Thank you.

***(Whereupon the hearing was
adjourned at 10:14 a.m.)***