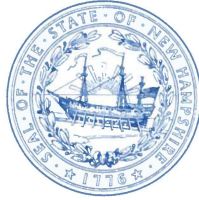


THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NH PUC 5 APR 18 AM 11:22

April 5, 2018

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

**Re: DE 18- 057 Electric Assistance Program Advisory Board
Recommendation
Request for Expedited Approval**

Dear Ms. Howland:

On behalf of the Electric Assistance Program (EAP) Advisory Board (Board), I enclose an original and six copies of the Board's recommendation regarding a change to the EAP design to address EAP participants using competitive energy suppliers. The Board respectfully requests an expedited review and approval of its recommended change to the EAP, which will permit, if approved, the EAP discount to be applied to the energy portion of the bill for those EAP participants who have chosen a competitive energy supplier. With this change, all EAP participants would receive the discount on the total bill, both delivery and energy.

Historically, unlike customers who received their energy service through the utility default energy service offering, customers of competitive energy suppliers only received the EAP discount on the delivery portion of the bill; the discount was not applied to the competitive energy supply charges on the bill. The Board spent the last year working collaboratively on possible solutions to the billing and IT challenges presented by applying the discount to the competitive energy supply portion of an EAP participant's bill, and the enclosed recommendation is a culmination of those efforts. The Board unanimously approved the recommendation on March 30, 2018.

The Board requests expedited treatment of its recommendation for two reasons. To implement the recommend program change, the utilities will need to make changes to their billing software. The software changes are projected to take several months to complete, and the utilities are reluctant to start the lengthy process until the Commission has approved the change to the program design change. The Board is also seeking

expedited approval to allow EAP participants who have selected a competitive supplier to receive the EAP discount on the total bill prior to, or coincident with, next winter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda O. Noonan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Amanda O. Noonan, Director
Consumer Services and External Affairs Division
On behalf of the EAP Advisory Board

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 #: 18-057-1 Printed: April 05, 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: DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- 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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