



**OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE**

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 18  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Website:  
[www.oca.nh.gov](http://www.oca.nh.gov)

April 6, 2022

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Docket No. DE 20-092  
Electric and Gas Utilities  
2021-2023 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan

To the Commission:

As you know, pursuant to the procedural order entered on March 16, 2022 (tab 171) in the above-referenced docket, an evidentiary hearing is scheduled for April 21 and 22 to consider the plan submitted on March 1 (tab 156) by the state's electric and natural gas utilities for ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs for the remainder of the current triennium ending on December 31, 2023. The purpose of this letter is to request a hybrid hearing format so that the witnesses for the Office of the Consumer Advocate ("OCA") and, potentially, the Consumer Advocate, may participate remotely.

The Commission will note that the OCA has generally avoided remote participation in hearings. We have likewise discouraged others from participating remotely. We continue to believe that "in-person" hearings are the most congenial to the public interest. Therefore, to the extent the Commission has returned to a 'default' setting of in-person hearings as the pandemic (hopefully) continues to wane, we heartily concur and are grateful.

Nevertheless, we find it necessary to request a hybrid hearing in this docket for the following reasons. On or before April 19, the OCA plans to file written testimony from Courtney Lane and Danielle Goldberg of Synapse Energy Economics. Ms. Lane is based in Massachusetts and Ms. Goldberg is based in Oregon. It would be impractical and costly for the OCA to incur the expense of bringing these witnesses to Concord. Their employer continues to operate on a remote basis, deeming that to be prudent given the uncertain state of the pandemic. The OCA prefers, if possible, to honor the operational preferences of Synapse as our trusted contractor. We note that Synapse has a national reputation as a source of policy insight in the realm of energy efficiency, particularly given its role in developing the National Standard Practice Manual for Benefit Cost Analysis and the related Granite State Test the Commission has previously considered in this docket. We therefore respectfully request the opportunity for these two witnesses to testify remotely.

Meanwhile, the undersigned Consumer Advocate plans to depart on April 9 for a long-planned prepaid family vacation in Mexico. My itinerary calls for me to return to the U.S. on April 16. However, I am aware that the State Department currently requires U.S. citizens flying home from a foreign country to present the results of a negative COVID 19 test conducted within 24 hours of departure. Although I am quadruple-vaccinated against the virus, I cannot predict what my COVID 19 status will be on April 16 and there is some possibility of my not being able to make a timely return to New Hampshire. Should circumstances warrant it, I would prefer to have the ability to participate in the April 21-22 hearing remotely given my longstanding involvement in this docket.

Thank you for considering this request. Please contact me if there are any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donald M. Kreis', written in a cursive style.

Donald M. Kreis  
Consumer Advocate

cc: Service List