

Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
Docket No. DE 20-092

Date Request Received: 10/22/2020

Date of Response: 10/28/2020

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Request from: New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission Staff

Witness:

Request:

Eversource: Please provide a justification for continuing with a 6% performance incentive for the Smart Start program.

Response:

The Smart Start loan program provides opportunity for municipal customers to participate in energy efficiency projects, beyond the programs offered through the Statewide Energy Efficiency Programs. Many municipalities receive project incentives for energy efficiency installations through the NHSaves municipal and/or C&I program offerings, yet, in some cases, these incentives are not enough to move the energy efficiency project forward. The municipal officials need a financing mechanism that does not require municipal bonds or other debt mechanisms that come with a high administrative and governance process burden for the community. SmartStart payments tied to the utility meter can simplify and expedite the process for implementation of the energy efficiency measures. The precedent for a performance incentive on SmartStart repayments was set in Docket No. DE 01-080, Order No. 23,851 and the financing offering remains today an important element for municipal customers, complementing the NH Saves programs offerings to provide municipalities an additional tool they need to fully engage in efficiency. Eversource should continue to earn a performance incentive on SmartStart Loan repayments because this effort is a good current energy efficiency policy for New Hampshire when considered in context and conjunction with all program offerings and should therefore be positively reinforced.