

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IR 20-166

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES

**Investigation into Compensation of Energy Storage Projects for
Avoided Transmission and Distribution Costs**

Procedural Order Re: Closing Docket

The Commission opened this docket on October 12, 2020, following the enactment of HB 715-FN (2020), which added new chapter RSA 374-H, effective September 12, 2020. RSA chapter 374-H required the Commission to open a proceeding, within 30 days of its effective date, to investigate how to compensate energy storage projects (ESPs) for avoided transmission and distribution costs while the ESPs also participated in wholesale energy markets. ESPs eligible for compensation included both utility-owned and non-utility-owned ESPs, with behind-the-meter or front-of-the meter storage, that were capable of storing electricity as some form of energy.

The Commission commenced the investigation to provide an opportunity for public comment on relevant issues and asked Commission Staff to conduct a stakeholder process to develop recommendations to present to the New Hampshire legislative committees with jurisdiction over energy and utility matters. The electric distribution utilities regulated by the Commission (NH Utilities) were made mandatory participants in the investigation. The Commission invited the parties to file initial written comments by January 11, 2021 and scheduled a technical session on January 25, 2021. The NH Utilities and numerous other interested parties filed initial comments.

On February 1, 2021, Commission Staff filed a report on the technical session, which requested that the Commission provide an opportunity for reply comments and

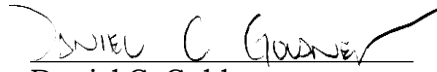
schedule a technical session on May 27, 2021, during which these comments could be discussed. Parties filed additional comments on March 8, 2021, and the technical session was held as scheduled. Following the technical session, Commission Staff filed a report requesting that additional comments be allowed by July 7, 2021, with a follow-up technical session to be scheduled on July 30, 2021. On June 24, 2021, the Commission approved this proposed amended procedural schedule and set September 13, 2021 as the deadline for then Commission Staff to file a recommendation. The Commission suspended all other deadlines and scheduled hearings until further notice.

On July 1, 2021, the Commission was divided into two separate agencies: the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Public Utilities Commission (Commission). Former Commission Staff working on this docket became DOE Staff. Additional comments were filed in the docket on July 7, 2021, but no further activity has occurred since then.

RSA chapter 374-H was amended on June 21, 2022 with the enactment of HB 1258 (2022). 2022 N.H. Laws, ch. 245:31. Effective August 20, 2022, responsibility for investigating how to compensate ESPs for avoided transmission and distribution costs, the subject of the above-captioned docket, will shift from the Commission to the DOE. The DOE will be in charge of conducting this investigation and reporting its findings and recommendations to the New Hampshire House and Senate standing committees with jurisdiction over energy and utility matters.

In accordance with the amendments to RSA chapter 374-H, the Commission suspends all further activity in this docket. As of August 20, 2022, the effective date of the amendments, this investigation is transferred to the DOE, and this docket will be closed without further order.

So ordered, this twentieth day of July, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel C. Goldner", is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel C. Goldner
Presiding Officer
Chairman

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 20-166

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