

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 20, 2021 - 4:00 p.m.  
[Remote Hearing Conducted Via Webex]

RE: DE 21-063  
LIBERTY UTILITIES (GRANITE STATE  
ELECTRIC) CORP., D/B/A LIBERTY  
UTILITIES ANNUAL RETAIL RATES  
(Hearing)

PRESENT:

Chairwoman Dianne Martin, Presiding  
Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey

Doreen Borden, Clerk  
Corrine Lemay, Webex Moderator

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Liberty Utility (Granite State  
Electric) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities  
Michael J. Sheehan, Esq.

Representing Commission Staff:  
Paul B. Dexter, Esq.

Court Reporter: Susan J. Robidas, NH LCR No. 44

## I N D E X

WITNESS PANEL:     JOHN D. WARSHAW  
                         DAVID B. SIMEK  
                         ADAM M. HALL

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## P R O C E E D I N G

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: We're here this afternoon in Docket 21-063, which is the Liberty Utilities Annual Retail Rate Adjustment filing. We already made the necessary finding in Docket 21-049 which immediately preceded this hearing, and we also took a roll call attendance of the Committee -- of the Commission. Sorry. But we will take appearances again for the record. So let's start with Mr. Sheehan.

MR. SHEEHAN: Good afternoon. Mike Sheehan for Liberty Utilities, Granite State Electric Corp.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: And Mr. Dexter.

MR. DEXTER: Paul Dexter, Staff counsel, appearing on behalf of the Commission Staff.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: And I have one exhibit premarked and prefiled as Exhibit 1. Anything else?

MR. SHEEHAN: That's correct.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Any other preliminary matters?

1 MR. SHEEHAN: No, other than to  
2 say no confidential material in this filing.

3 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank  
4 you. Why don't we get the witnesses sworn in,  
5 please.

6 (WHEREUPON, JOHN D. WARSHAW, DAVID B.  
7 SIMEK AND ADAM M. HALL were duly sworn  
8 and cautioned by the Court Reporter.)  
9 JOHN D. WARSHAW, SWORN  
10 DAVID B. SIMEK, SWORN  
11 ADAM M. HALL, SWORN

12 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay, Mr.  
13 Sheehan.

14 MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you.

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. SHEEHAN:

17 Q. Mr. Warshaw, start with you. Please give us  
18 your name and your position with the Company.

19 A. (Warshaw) My name is John Warshaw. I am the  
20 manager of energy supply for Liberty.

21 Q. Mr. Warshaw, did you prepare the testimony  
22 that begins at Bates 1 of Exhibit 1 and bears  
23 your name?

24 A. (Warshaw) Yes, I did.

1 Q. Do you have any corrections to that testimony  
2 that you'd like to bring to the Commission's  
3 attention?

4 A. (Warshaw) Yes, I have one correction.

5 If you turn to Bates Page 14, the Q&A at  
6 the top of the page should reference  
7 "contract charges for 2021" and not 2020. So  
8 that would be Line 2, replace "2020" with  
9 "2021," and Line 9, replace "2020" with  
10 "2021." Those are the only corrections that  
11 I have at this time.

12 Q. And with those corrections in mind, do you  
13 adopt your written testimony as your sworn  
14 testimony today?

15 A. (Warshaw) Yes, I do.

16 Q. And as a preliminary matter, I'd just like to  
17 ask you a couple questions to kick this  
18 hearing off.

19 Is it fair to say that a major driver of  
20 the increase in transmission rates this year  
21 arises from a timing issue between a forecast  
22 on which you based those estimates and the  
23 actual rates that come out of that forecast?

24 A. (Warshaw) Yes.

1 Q. And what is the forecast --

2 A. (Warshaw) Yes, it does.

3 Q. Yeah. And what forecast is that that you  
4 incorporate into your projection of Granite  
5 State's transmission costs?

6 A. (Warshaw) What I utilized is the RNS rates  
7 that are presented to -- at the NEPOOL Summer  
8 Reliability Committee -- Transmission  
9 Committee meeting that was held back on  
10 August 18th of 2020.

11 Q. And it had been the case in the past when  
12 this committee, this group, makes their  
13 forecast that time of year every year; is  
14 that correct?

15 A. (Warshaw) That is correct.

16 Q. And that's the -- I'm sorry.

17 A. (Warshaw) Yeah, and that -- I'm sorry.

18 And that forecast in August is for rates  
19 that would be effective June of the following  
20 year; so that would be June 1st of 2021. So  
21 there's quite a bit of timing difference from  
22 when the forecast is issued until the actual  
23 rates are implemented.

24 Q. And that's the forecast on which you base a

1 lot of your calculations; is that fair?

2 A. (Warshaw) That's correct.

3 Q. In this particular year, that forecast  
4 happened to be pretty far off; is that right?

5 A. (Warshaw) Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And I'm sure Mr. Dexter and your  
7 testimony described those differences.

8 Has that group changed how they're going  
9 to do their forecasting in the future?

10 A. (Warshaw) Yes. In the future, as a result of  
11 a settlement in the transmission RNS rates  
12 hearing case in front of FERC, they now will  
13 have implemented a different process in which  
14 the rates will be releasing in June,  
15 providing plenty of time for review by  
16 interested parties, and they would be  
17 effective on January 1st of the following  
18 year.

19 Q. So for our filings in the spring of a  
20 calendar year, we will now have rates that  
21 have been in effect already for a couple  
22 years [sic] on which you can base rates; is  
23 that correct?

24 A. (Warshaw) Yeah, the rates will be effective

1           for a couple of months, yes.

2    Q.    Thank you.

3           Mr. Simek, can you please introduce  
4           yourself?

5    A.    (Simek) David Simek, manager of rates and  
6           regulatory affairs.

7    Q.    Mr. Simek, did you, with Mr. Hall, prepare  
8           testimony that appears beginning at Bates 25  
9           of Exhibit 1?

10   A.    (Simek) Yes, I did.

11   Q.    And do you have any corrections to your  
12          testimony?

13   A.    (Simek) I do not.

14   Q.    And do you adopt your testimony here this  
15          afternoon?

16   A.    (Simek) Yes, I do.

17   Q.    Thank you.

18           Mr. Hall, please introduce yourself.

19   A.    (Hall) Yeah, my name's Adam Hall. My role is  
20          analyst, regulatory -- excuse me -- rates and  
21          regulatory affairs.

22   Q.    Mr. Hall, did you, with Mr. Simek, prepare  
23          testimony that begins at Bates 25 of  
24          Exhibit 1?



1 A. (Hall) Yes.

2 Q. And do you have any changes you'd like to  
3 bring to the Commission's attention?

4 A. (Hall) I don't.

5 Q. And do you adopt that testimony as your sworn  
6 testimony today?

7 A. (Hall) Yes, I do.

8 Q. And can you point us to the bill impacts of  
9 the rates that we are seeking approval for in  
10 this docket? And I think you mentioned  
11 earlier today you can also add what we're  
12 proposing in this docket with what was  
13 addressed in the prior hearing we had this  
14 afternoon in 20-049; is that correct?

15 A. (Hall) Yes. Did you need me to point out  
16 exactly that?

17 Q. Yes, please do.

18 A. (Hall) So on Bates 053, it is -- or what you  
19 see is a bill comparison for residential  
20 customers taking 650 kilowatt hours. And in  
21 this adjustment alone in the retail rate  
22 filing, customers would see an increase in  
23 their bill of 5.86 percent, or \$6.73.

24 On Bates 054 is a comparison of proposed

1 rates in the REP/VMP filing that we were  
2 discussing earlier today. And that shows all  
3 changes proposed on May 1st. And customers  
4 taking 650 kilowatt hours would see an  
5 increase in their bill of \$7.33, or  
6 6.83 percent -- excuse me -- 6.38 percent.

7 Q. And just scrolling between those two pages,  
8 53 and 54 shows that this docket has a \$6.73  
9 impact, and the total impact is \$7.30. So  
10 obviously this docket is the lion's share of  
11 the two dockets; is that fair?

12 A. (Hall) Correct. I agree.

13 MR. SHEEHAN: That's all I have.  
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Mr. Dexter.

16 MR. DEXTER: Thank you.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. DEXTER:

19 Q. So as I understand this docket, we're looking  
20 at two different rates. And while we're on  
21 Bates 53, I think they're displayed right  
22 there. In this case, is it correct THAT  
23 we're changing the rate on the line labeled  
24 "Transmission Charge"?

1 A. (Hall) Yes. Correct.

2 Q. And we're also proposing -- you're also  
3 proposing to change the rate on the line  
4 marked "Stranded Cost Charge"; correct?

5 A. (Hall) Correct?

6 Q. And all the other lines on this bill impact  
7 sheet stay the same; correct?

8 A. (Hall) Correct.

9 Q. Okay. So let's just talk very briefly about  
10 stranded costs and then go to transmission  
11 charges.

12 So if you'd go to Bates Page 39, please.  
13 Those are the rates in a little bit more  
14 detail.

15 A. (Hall) Yes, I'm there.

16 Q. And the stranded cost rate that's proposed is  
17 in Column C; correct?

18 A. (Hall) Yes. Correct.

19 Q. And that's a negative rate. It's a credit.  
20 And it's a slightly larger credit than what's  
21 in effect right now; is that true?

22 A. (Hall) Yes.

23 Q. And if -- that rate is charged -- or that  
24 credit is provided through New England Power;

1 correct?

2 A. (Hall) Yes, in Docket DE 21-011.

3 Q. Right. And in that docket, New England Power  
4 submits a reconciliation and the Commission  
5 reviews that and then the results of that  
6 docket -- that docket still happens to be  
7 pending -- but the results of that docket  
8 will ultimately flow into your next stranded  
9 cost charge; correct?

10 A. (Hall) Correct.

11 MR. DEXTER: And for the  
12 Commission's update, I'm sure you know that  
13 docket is ongoing. There's been a Staff  
14 recommendation in 21-011 that recommends  
15 approval of the credit as calculated by NEP. So  
16 although that docket is still open, there  
17 doesn't seem to be any dispute over that credit.

18 A. (Hall) I agree.

19 Q. Thank you. With that, I'd like to move to  
20 stranded -- I'm sorry -- from stranded costs  
21 to transmission costs. And I'd like to start  
22 at the testimony at Bates 6 and 7., and it  
23 talks about the settlement process down at  
24 the FERC that Mr. Warshaw was just

1 mentioning.

2 So if I understand your testimony  
3 correctly, Mr. Warshaw, this process has not  
4 been implemented yet for the rates that are  
5 proposed in this docket; correct?

6 A. (Warshaw) That is correct.

7 Q. But it will be, if all things go according to  
8 plan, it will be reflected in next year's  
9 transmission cost filing by Liberty; correct?

10 A. (Warshaw) If all goes according to plan, yes,  
11 that's correct.

12 Q. And the January 1st that Mr. Sheehan asked  
13 you about will be January 1st, 2022. So  
14 you'll have rates from ISO-New England that  
15 have gone through this process that's  
16 described in your testimony.

17 A. (Warshaw) Correct.

18 Q. In this case, in your testimony at Pages 11  
19 through 12, there's about a \$3-plus million  
20 increase in charges from ISO-New England as  
21 compared to last year; is that right?

22 A. (Warshaw) Some of the change in the  
23 correction of the transmission rate that  
24 we -- that was forecasted the prior year and

1           also the increase as a result of investments  
2           that are current or planned by the  
3           transmission owners doesn't result in a --  
4           (connectivity issue)

5                       [Court Reporter interrupts.]

6   A.   (Warshaw) Planned by the transmission owners.

7   Q.   Can you describe -- you mentioned a  
8       \$2.8 million increase from ISO-New England.  
9       Can you describe the equipment replacement --

10                      CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Mr. Warshaw,  
11       can you mute in between? I think that might  
12       help.

13   A.   (Warshaw) Mr. Dexter, can you repeat the  
14       question? You broke up.

15   Q.   I understand. I just asked you if you could  
16       describe the equipment replacements that are  
17       being made at the transmission level that you  
18       referenced on Page 11 and 12 and then again  
19       at the end of your testimony.

20   A.   (Warshaw) There are quite a number of  
21       projects that are being implemented by the  
22       transmission owners in New England, and those  
23       projects have all been reviewed and approved  
24       by the stakeholder process in New England.

1           So, you know, I'm not sure what you're  
2           looking for. There are many, many projects.

3    Q.   And at the end of your testimony you talk  
4           about a five-year budget of about a billion  
5           dollars per year of transmission investments,  
6           which is consistent with what happened this  
7           past year, according to your testimony.

8                   Can you share any details on the  
9           \$5 billion of projected investment?

10   A.   (Warshaw) The \$5 billion are -- I don't have  
11           details, as far as specific projects. But  
12           they're specifically there to implement  
13           improving the reliability of the system,  
14           reacting to the increase in renewable  
15           projects that are being implemented in New  
16           England, and a few other improvements,  
17           including the improvement to more -- to  
18           reduce the congestion going into the New  
19           England -- to the Boston, Mass. area.

20   Q.   Is it reasonable to expect, based on this  
21           forecast, that we will see similar increases  
22           coming through the Liberty case this year for  
23           transmission costs?

24   A.   (Warshaw) I have not forecasted what will

1           happen going forward, other than one of the  
2           things that will be eliminated is the true-up  
3           of the forecasted rate versus the actual rate  
4           that was implemented. That's implemented  
5           almost a year later. Hopefully we'll lose  
6           that. I'm sure there will be some true-ups  
7           over the year as actual costs get documented  
8           and reviewed in the actual rates compared to  
9           what was estimated to be implemented during  
10          the year.

11       Q.   And is Liberty a participant in that FERC  
12           docket that you talked about?

13       A.   (Warshaw) Liberty was a participant at one  
14           point.

15       Q.   Is Liberty a participant now? The docket's  
16           ongoing; right?

17       A.   (Warshaw) Which docket?

18       Q.   Yeah, I'm sorry. You reference it in your  
19           testimony at Page 11 and 12, I believe --

20       A.   (Warshaw) Oh, okay. I wasn't sure which  
21           docket you were looking at. Sorry.

22                       We were representative in the previous  
23           docket. When it got consolidated, liberty  
24           fell off the map on that, was not listed as a



1 participant in the docket.

2 Q. What do you mean when you say "it got  
3 consolidated"?

4 A. (Warshaw) They moved it from one -- they  
5 consolidated it into a different docket. I  
6 don't have the docket numbers in front of me.

7 (Pause)

8 A. (Warshaw) Yeah, Docket EL 1619 was the  
9 original docket, and then as part of the  
10 settlement process it became FERC Docket ER  
11 20-2054. And somehow when that happened,  
12 Liberty was not included in the participants  
13 of ER 20-2054.

14 Q. And moving to some of the schedules that you  
15 produced, if I go to Bates Page 18, that's a  
16 summary sheet that shows all the transmission  
17 costs that you're proposing to flow through  
18 the rates proposed in this case; correct?

19 A. (Warshaw) That is correct.

20 Q. And if I go to the next page, which is Bates  
21 19, that shows the difference between the  
22 \$26-, almost \$27 million proposed in this  
23 case versus the \$23 million proposed this  
24 time last year; correct?

1 A. (Warshaw) That is correct.

2 Q. And to see how that 26, almost 27 million  
3 that's proposed in this case translates into  
4 the proposed rates, I go to Bates Page 44 --  
5 is that correct -- and I find that number in  
6 the upper left-hand corner? That's actually  
7 a Simek-Hall document.

8 A. (Warshaw) That is my understanding. The  
9 Simek and Hall took my estimate for 2021, and  
10 they used that to develop the actual rates  
11 that are proposed in this.

12 A. (Simek) Yeah, you both are correct.

13 Q. Okay. Thank you.

14 And the rates that we're talking about,  
15 again going back to Page 39, appear in -- the  
16 rates related to the 26, almost 27 million  
17 are the rates that show up in Column D;  
18 correct?

19 A. (Simek) Yes, that's correct.

20 Q. And the rates that show up in Column E on  
21 Bates 39 are different. That's related to a  
22 projected under-recovery; correct?

23 A. (Hall) Let me just get to that page.

24 A. (Simek) That is correct.

1 Q. And the details of the under-recovery are  
2 shown on Bates 46, I believe. Let me just  
3 get there. Yeah. If we could go to Bates 46  
4 for a minute. That shows a projected  
5 under-recovery of 3.3 million.

6 A. (Hall) Correct.

7 Q. So in this docket we're seeing an increase in  
8 transmission costs calculated by Mr. Warshaw  
9 of over three million and an increase in the  
10 under-collection of over 3 million as well.  
11 Would you agree?

12 A. (Hall) Yes, I do.

13 Q. And the two of those combined is what makes  
14 up the, as Mr. -- or as Attorney Sheehan  
15 called it, "the lion's share" of the  
16 increases in the two dockets that we've heard  
17 from today, or at least the combination of  
18 those two transmission charges.

19 A. (Hall) Correct.

20 Q. Now, last time -- this time last year it was  
21 a projected over-collection; it was only  
22 194,000. So it was significantly lower.

23 Do you know what's giving rise to the  
24 projected under-collection in this case of

1           3.3 million?

2       A.     (Hall) I don't know if I am the right person  
3           to ask that question.

4       A.     (Simek) Well, the estimate from the ISO-New  
5           England is a major driver to that. I know  
6           Mr. Warshaw can probably explain that a  
7           little further. I mean, I know we briefly  
8           touched on it so far. But we're basing our  
9           rates on the estimated cost that came from  
10          ISO-New England that was much lower than  
11          where actuals came. So of course we have an  
12          under-collection based on that.

13      Q.     So it's the same phenomenon that we've been  
14           talking about?

15      A.     (Simek) Yes.

16      Q.     The low forecast from ISO-New England not  
17           only leads to a big increase in this case on  
18           Mr. Warshaw's side, but it also leads to the  
19           under-recovery on your side of the equation.

20      A.     (Simek) Correct.

21      Q.     Going back up to the sheet where all the  
22           rates are later crossed out, that horizontal  
23           sheet -- let me find it again. It's  
24           Bates 39. The last -- I'll skip over the

1 RGGI options for today and go to the second  
2 to the last column, which is entitled "Lost  
3 Revenue Due to Net Metering." Can you  
4 explain what that's about?

5 A. (Hall) Yes. I might not be able to explain  
6 it fully, but this is the adjustment due to a  
7 couple of --

8 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Mr. Hall, can  
9 you speak up and put your microphone nearer to  
10 your face because you're not hearing some of  
11 what you're saying. And start over where you  
12 were. Thank you.

13 A. (Hall) Okay. Sorry. I was explaining that  
14 Column G, the Lost Revenue Due to Net  
15 Metering, is based upon three different  
16 portions. And I'm just going to get there.  
17 So that is based on 2019 and 2020 new net  
18 metered credits. The second portion is 2019  
19 banked payments, and the third portion is  
20 2019 and 2020 group host payments. And I can  
21 get you the Bates number on that in just a  
22 moment.

23 A. (Simek) If I could just add to that for a  
24 moment. The rationale for including this

1 LRAM component to the transmission rate is  
2 what came out of the settlement agreement in  
3 DE 19-064. And it had to do with decoupling  
4 being approved, but it got pushed out for an  
5 extra year. So part of the settlement  
6 agreement was to allow us to re-implement  
7 LRAM until the decoupling mechanism goes into  
8 effect.

9 A. (Hall) And the calculation can be found on  
10 Bates 052.

11 Q. Right. So just a couple follow-up questions  
12 on that. I'm not that familiar with -- net  
13 metering, this is from solar generation; is  
14 that right?

15 A. (Simek) Correct.

16 Q. And I'm not familiar with a lot of these  
17 terms. If you could just go over them  
18 quickly. For example, Column B talks about  
19 credits. So what's a "new net meter credit"?

20 A. (Simek) It's basically lost revenue to the  
21 Company due to new customers that became net-  
22 metered solar customers during 2019 or 2020.

23 Q. And not 2018 because that was the test year  
24 in the last case?

1 A. (Simek) Correct.

2 Q. And how about Column C? What are "banked  
3 payments"?

4 A. (Simek) If one of these customers generates  
5 more solar than what they used, then they can  
6 bank them and get paid for them, and these  
7 are payments that we made for those banked  
8 kilowatt hours.

9 Q. How is that different from net metering?

10 A. (Simek) It's above and beyond what would have  
11 offset there. So if a customer had usage of  
12 100 kilowatt hours and they generated 120,  
13 net metering would be like 100, and the extra  
14 20 would be banked.

15 Q. And how about the "host payments"?

16 A. (Simek) Now, part of what's also allowed in  
17 the legislation is that there's group host  
18 meters that -- I forget the term, but they're  
19 able to have other members be part of the  
20 host, and they kind of manage the program and  
21 then get the credits and all that. And the  
22 payments go directly to the host, and then  
23 they have separate contracts with other  
24 solars. And they can -- solar customers.

1           Sorry. And they can turn around and, you  
2           know, based on the contract they have with  
3           other solar customers, give them their share  
4           of the payments. But that's all managed by a  
5           group host.

6   Q.   When these are all added up, they come to a  
7           little over \$400,000, and then that  
8           calculates into the rate that's proposed.

9           The last time the Company did this back  
10          in 2018, it had a figure for lost revenues  
11          from net metering of 14,000, rounded, for  
12          2017 -- 2016, and 57,000 for 2017; so  
13          significantly less than what's proposed here.

14          Is that -- does that surprise you that  
15          the number has gone up so much since 2016 and  
16          2017?

17   A.   (Simek) No. The number of customers has  
18          really grown. This is all data that comes  
19          directly from our billing system. And I  
20          asked that same question to our billing  
21          folks, and they said that the number of solar  
22          customers has really grown.

23   Q.   And you mentioned that decoupling will take  
24          place for Liberty as a result of the rate



1 case settlement in DE 19-064. Can you remind  
2 me and the Commission when that will take  
3 place, the decoupling? When does that start?

4 A. (Simek) I believe -- oh, I have to look at  
5 the settlement real quick. I know we pushed  
6 it out for a year, so I believe it's July of  
7 2021. This year is when it's in effect. Oh,  
8 no. I believe it was July of '22. But I'd  
9 have to double-check that.

10 Q. For now, you're requesting in this docket  
11 revenue from 2019 and 2020; is that right?

12 A. (Simek) 2019 and 2020. Correct. So when the  
13 decoupling goes into effect, it will be taken  
14 into account. Nothing of that has to do with  
15 '19 or '20.

16 MR. SHEEHAN: If I can interject.  
17 I pulled up the settlement agreement, and it's  
18 July 1 of '21 it goes into effect.

19 MR. DEXTER: Mike, can you point  
20 me to the page? I've got the document up, too.  
21 Maybe you can -- what page in the settlement  
22 does it address decoupling and net metering?

23 MR. SHEEHAN: Eleven.

24 MR. DEXTER: Thank you. Hold on

1           just a second.

2   BY MR. DEXTER:

3   Q.   Now, the settlement talks about that the  
4       Company should be permitted to continue the  
5       lost revenue adjustment mechanism for  
6       calendar years '19 and '20.

7           These net revenues are not being  
8       recovered through the lost revenue adjustment  
9       mechanism. Would you agree? And if so, how  
10      does the settlement cover these lost  
11      revenues?

12   A.   (Simek) I'm not sure I understand your  
13       question. We're proposing to collect this  
14       through the lost revenue mechanism, which  
15       we're proposing is a component of the  
16       transmission rate in this filing.

17   Q.   Which is different from the lost revenue  
18       adjustment mechanism that you used for energy  
19       efficiency.

20   A.   (Simek) Correct. That's correct. This is  
21       consistent with how we've done it prior to  
22       filing for the test year. So we took it out  
23       for, I think it was around the time when you  
24       started with the company -- or with the

1 Commission. We used to have an LRAM  
2 component as part of transmission. Then we  
3 took it out because we were filing for the  
4 rate case, and now we're just putting it back  
5 in. And the numbers have grown immensely  
6 with the number of solar customers in our  
7 system. But that's exactly what we were  
8 proposing in the settlement agreement was to  
9 collect this net metering cost. This is not  
10 related to the one that has to do with --  
11 (connectivity issue)

12 [Court Reporter interrupts.]

13 A. (Simek) -- the LRAM component related to EE,  
14 or energy efficiency.

15 MR. DEXTER: Commissioners,  
16 that's all the questions I have for this panel.  
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Dexter.

20 Commissioner Bailey, do you have  
21 questions?

22 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes, I do.  
23 Thank you.

24 INTERROGATORIES BY COMMISSIONERS:

1 BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:

2 Q. As a follow-up to Mr. Dexter's questions  
3 about the lost revenue being collected in the  
4 transmission rate, why are you proposing to  
5 collect lost revenue from net metering as  
6 part of a transmission rate and not part of  
7 some other rate?

8 A. (Simek) We're not -- well, first of all, we  
9 look at this filing as a retail rate filing.  
10 So it's kind of the right filing to put these  
11 components in. So, really, the only two  
12 choices would be the stranded cost or the  
13 transmission, because the way our bill is set  
14 up, those are the two line items where we  
15 would be able to roll something in.

16 I believe back a few years back when we  
17 first did this and did receive Commission  
18 approval for it, we did work with Staff, and  
19 that was the recommendation, to put it in the  
20 transmission rate.

21 Q. What rate do you collect lost revenue for  
22 energy efficiency in? SBC?

23 A. (Simek) Yes.

24 Q. Okay. Thanks. All right.

1           Mr. Warsaw, I had some questions for  
2           you and your testimony. I just have to get  
3           there.

4           Can you tell me how RNS costs get  
5           allocated among electric utilities in New  
6           Hampshire, or actually among all transmission  
7           users in the region?

8    A.    (Warshaw) The transmission owners provide  
9           their revenue requirement to ISO, and then  
10          ISO basically aggregates all of those revenue  
11          requirements and creates a single postage  
12          stamp rate for the entire New England. So  
13          whether you're in Maine or Connecticut, the  
14          transmission rate is the same.

15   Q.    Are the costs allocated based on load?

16   A.    (Warshaw) Yeah, peak load that occurred in  
17          the previous year.

18   Q.    So what you just said is that ISO gets all  
19          the costs from the transmission owners, and  
20          they come up with a postage stamp rate, which  
21          last year was \$129 a kilowatt year. And you  
22          project this year it's going to be \$138 a  
23          kilowatt year; is that right?

24   A.    (Warshaw) I don't project it. ISO provides

1           that information in the summer meeting. I  
2           utilize the information that is provided by  
3           ISO.

4       Q.    Okay. Sorry about that. So your rate is  
5           based on a FERC rate that the ISO expects to  
6           be effective June 1st of \$138 a kilowatt  
7           hour -- a kilowatt year; right?

8       A.    (Warshaw) Correct.

9       Q.    I've asked other utilities to convert that  
10           rate to a dollar per megawatt hour rate.  
11           Have you ever looked at that?

12      A.    (Warshaw) In developing the retail rate, we  
13           convert that expected cost into our retail  
14           rates that are collected as a dollar per  
15           kilowatt hour, if that's what you're asking.  
16           If you're asking if that cost is converted  
17           into dollar per megawatt hour of sold at  
18           wholesale for load in New England, I have not  
19           done that.

20      Q.    I'm asking you to convert \$138 per kilowatt  
21           year to dollars per megawatt hour. And I  
22           understand that, you know, you create your  
23           rates based on that cost. But the rates are  
24           different by different classes; right? Like

1 residential pays a different rate than a  
2 commercial and industrial customer for  
3 transmission.

4 A. (Warshaw) Yes, that's how the rates are  
5 developed. I think either David or Adam can  
6 better -- Mr. Simek or Mr. Hall can --

7 A. (Simek) Yes, you are correct, Commissioner  
8 Bailey.

9 Q. What part am I correct on?

10 A. (Simek) That both of the different rate  
11 classes charge different transmission rate.  
12 It's all allocated by the peak load. I can  
13 take you to a schedule and show you how  
14 that's done.

15 Q. Okay. Thank you.

16 A. (Simek) Bates Page 44.

17 Q. Okay. So take me through that schedule,  
18 please.

19 A. (Simek) Sure. So as we talked earlier,  
20 Line 1, projected expense of 26.9 million,  
21 and then we take the coincident peak by rate  
22 class, and we allocate that cost by the  
23 coincident peak on Line 4, the coincident  
24 peak percentage, and then we just divide that

1           by the forecasted kilowatt hour sales by rate  
2           class to then come up with the proposed  
3           transmission rate by rate class.

4    Q.    Okay.  So the \$26,891,000, is that the  
5           transmission owners' expense that has to be  
6           recovered from New Hampshire customers?

7    A.    (Warshaw) That is correct.

8    Q.    And that number is some percentage of the  
9           total transmission owner cost in the region;  
10          right?

11   A.    (Warshaw) Correct.  But there's also a few  
12          other costs that are added in, dispatch costs  
13          that are incurred by ISO-New England to  
14          manage the transmission system.

15   Q.    Things like the cost of NESCOE as well;  
16          right?

17   A.    (Warshaw) Could you repeat that, please?

18   Q.    And things like the cost of NESCOE are  
19          included in that amount; right?

20   A.    (Warshaw) Yes, that's true.  That's a  
21          separate line item.

22   Q.    Do costs like that get allocated by load?

23   A.    (Simek) Are you referring to the rates that  
24          we set up by customer class?  No?  Okay.



1           Sorry.

2       Q.    No.  I'm trying to figure out where the  
3           \$26,891,182 comes from.  And so I believe  
4           that it comes from the transmission owners'  
5           total costs, plus I think what I just heard,  
6           it also includes things like the cost from  
7           NESCOE and all that kind of stuff.  So they  
8           get that total amount of money that they have  
9           to recover from the region, ISO does, and  
10          they split it among the states based on load.  
11          And so our percent of the total cost -- I  
12          mean our amount of the total cost is  
13          27 million; is that right?

14       A.   (Warshaw) More or less, yes, you are correct.

15       Q.    Okay.  Thank you.

16                So has the Battery Pilot Program  
17           resulted in any decrease in the load  
18           allocation, or have any of the other programs  
19           that you have implemented changed the load  
20           allocation at all?

21       A.    (Simek) I'm not sure.  Well, the Battery  
22           Pilot Program was probably too small.  Some  
23           of the other EE programs in our proposed  
24           demand response pilot would probably -- I

1 don't have the answer of how much, if it has  
2 reduced the load. I just can only assume  
3 that they have. That's the purpose of the  
4 programs; right? And there's a lot of  
5 spending in the EE and all that.

6 Q. Well, that's why I asked the question. So  
7 could you look into that and tell me what --  
8 how the load allocation has been impacted by  
9 those kinds of programs?

10 A. (Simek) Sure. We can take that as, you know,  
11 a request and follow-up on that.

12 Q. That would be great. Thank you.

13 Did you include any adjustments for  
14 working capital, and did you reconcile or --  
15 yeah, we talked about the reconciliation of  
16 the cost from last year because the rate that  
17 that was included, the hundred -- actually,  
18 Mr. Warshaw, do you know the rate that was  
19 included in last year's filing that turned  
20 out to be \$129 per kilowatt year?

21 A. (Warshaw) I do. I'm just pulling that up  
22 now. The original rate was approximately  
23 \$120 a kilowatt year, and then with the  
24 adjustment that was additionally added with

1 reconciliation, it moved it up to \$129 per  
2 kilowatt year.

3 Q. So that \$3.3 million -- can you go on mute,  
4 please?

5 That \$3.3 million that you're  
6 reconciling in these rates is because the  
7 actual FERC-approved dollar per kilowatt year  
8 was \$9 more than expected; right?

9 A. (Simek) Correct.

10 Q. Okay. Did you do anything with cash working  
11 capital for transmission in this filing?

12 A. (Simek) Yes. I can take you to the pages.  
13 If we go to, well, I guess Bates Page 47,  
14 Line 2 shows that there was a modest decrease  
15 related to working capital of 8,590. And the  
16 backup to that calculation is shown on the  
17 very next page, Bates 48; it's a summary of  
18 the calculation. And then there's a couple  
19 more pages backed into that summary page as  
20 well, 49 and 50.

21 Q. Okay. Thanks. And then if we can go to Page  
22 10, I'd like to talk about LNS.

23 So how do the local network service  
24 charges get allocated to New Hampshire?

1     A.     (Warshaw) Those charges are allocated based  
2           on a revenue requirement that NEP has, and it  
3           is based on our monthly coincident peak load  
4           at the time of the New England peak.

5     Q.     And I think that was another thing that the  
6           Battery Storage Pilot was going to attempt to  
7           do was dispatch the batteries at the monthly  
8           coincident peak.

9           So in your data request, Mr. Simek, can  
10          you include the impact of those programs on  
11          the monthly coincident peak as well?

12    A.     (Simek) As long as the information is  
13          available, of course.

14    Q.     Okay. Thank you. That's all I have.

15    A.     (Simek) Thank you.

16           CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Commissioner  
17          Bailey, is that all in one request?

18           COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes, that  
19          can be all in the one question.

20           And the second request that I  
21          would like to add that I'm not sure you took  
22          away is the conversion of \$138 a kilowatt year  
23          to dollars per megawatt hour. That could be a  
24          separate data request. And you can look in

1 last year's Eversource filings to see how they  
2 did it. They filed a record request for that.  
3 They might have filed a record request two  
4 years ago and then just included it in their  
5 transmission filing last year.

6 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Any questions  
7 about either of those record requests? Are they  
8 clear, Mr. Sheehan?

9 MR. SHEEHAN: On the battery  
10 storage question, I have it as can we  
11 demonstrate what effect it has on our peaks,  
12 either LNS or RNS; is that correct?

13 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Yes, but  
14 also the other programs, like demand response  
15 and energy efficiency.

16 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. And I  
17 have no questions that haven't been answered.

18 So Mr. Sheehan, do you have  
19 redirect?

20 MR. SHEEHAN: No, I do not.  
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.  
23 Then we will strike I.D. on Exhibit 1 and admit  
24 that as a full exhibit and hold the record open  
for the two record requests, which will be

1 identified as Exhibit 2 and 3.

2 Is there anything else before  
3 closing?

4 [No verbal response]

5 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Mr.  
6 Dexter, would you like to start?

7 MR. DEXTER: Yes. In short,  
8 Staff recommends approval of the rates as filed.  
9 We've checked the calculations in this case, as  
10 well as compared them to prior years, and they  
11 are consistent; therefore, we recommend approval  
12 as filed.

13 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: That was  
14 short. Thank you.

15 Mr. Sheehan.

16 MR. SHEEHAN: I can be short as  
17 well. Thank you for that recommendation, Staff.  
18 And we'd also ask the Commission approve the  
19 rates as filed.

20 Just one comment on the record  
21 request to see what impact it had. Remember  
22 that we're in a war, if you will, with the  
23 other states. If we reduce peak by 2 percent  
24 and they reduce peak by 3 percent, our rates go

1 up. Just sort of the irony of it all. But  
2 overall, it's a good thing. So we'll get that  
3 information for you. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Understood.  
5 Thanks, Mr. Sheehan.

6 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank  
7 you, everyone. With that, we will close the  
8 record on this hearing and take this matter  
9 under advisement. And we are adjourned for the  
10 day. Have a good afternoon.

11 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Thank you,  
12 everyone.

13 (Hearing concluded at 4:52 p.m.)  
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|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | <b>actuals (1)</b><br>20:11                                | <b>Annual (1)</b><br>3:4   | <b>21:15,17;24:2;29:15;<br/>30:5,23;33:10;36:1,3</b>   | <b>calculations (2)</b><br>7:1;38:9  |
| <b>\$</b>  | <b>ADAM (4)</b><br>4:7,11;8:19;31:5                        | <b>appear (1)</b><br>18:15                                       | <b>basically (2)</b><br>22:20;29:10  | <b>calendar (2)</b><br>7:20;26:6   |
| <b>\$120 (1)</b><br>34:23                              | <b>add (3)</b><br>9:11;21:23;36:21                         | <b>appearances (1)</b><br>3:9                                    | <b>basing (1)</b><br>20:8  | <b>call (1)</b><br>3:7   |
| <b>\$129 (3)</b><br>29:21;34:20;35:1                   | <b>added (3)</b><br>24:6;32:12;34:24                       | <b>appearing (1)</b><br>3:17                                     | <b>Bates (21)</b><br>4:22;5:5;8:8,23;  | <b>called (1)</b><br>19:15   |
| <b>\$138 (4)</b><br>29:22;30:6,20;<br>36:22            | <b>additionally (1)</b><br>34:24                           | <b>appears (1)</b><br>8:8  | 9:18,24;10:21;11:12;<br>12:22;17:15,20;18:4,<br>21;19:2,3;20:24;<br>21:21;22:10;31:16;<br>35:13,17 | <b>came (3)</b><br>20:9,11;22:2  |
| <b>\$2.8 (1)</b><br>14:8                               | <b>address (1)</b><br>25:22                                | <b>approval (5)</b><br>9:9;12:15;28:18;<br>38:8,11               | <b>batteries (1)</b><br>36:7   | <b>can (34)</b><br>7:22;8:3;9:8,11;<br>14:7,9,11,13;15:8;<br>20:6;21:3,8,20;22:9;<br>23:5,24;24:1;25:1,16,<br>19,21;29:4;31:5,6,12;<br>34:2,10;35:3,12,21;<br>36:9,19,24;38:16 |
| <b>\$23 (1)</b><br>17:23                               | <b>addressed (1)</b><br>9:13                               | <b>approve (1)</b><br>38:18                                      | <b>Battery (3)</b><br>33:16,21;36:6  | <b>capital (3)</b><br>34:14;35:11,15   |
| <b>\$26- (1)</b><br>17:22                              | <b>adjourned (1)</b><br>39:9                               | <b>approved (2)</b><br>14:23;22:4                                | <b>bears (1)</b><br>4:22   | <b>case (14)</b><br>6:11;7:12;10:22;<br>13:18;15:22;17:18,<br>23;18:3;19:24;20:17;<br>22:24;25:1;27:4;38:9   |
| <b>\$26,891,000 (1)</b><br>32:4                        | <b>Adjustment (7)</b><br>3:4;9:21;21:6;26:5,<br>8,18;34:24 | <b>approximately (1)</b><br>34:22                                | <b>became (2)</b><br>17:10;22:21   | <b>cash (1)</b><br>35:10   |
| <b>\$26,891,182 (1)</b><br>33:3                        | <b>adjustments (1)</b><br>34:13                            | <b>area (1)</b><br>15:19   | <b>beginning (1)</b><br>8:8  | <b>cautioned (1)</b><br>4:8  |
| <b>\$27 (1)</b><br>17:22                               | <b>adopt (3)</b><br>5:13;8:14;9:5                          | <b>arises (1)</b><br>5:21  | <b>begins (2)</b><br>4:22;8:23   | <b>CHAIRWOMAN (14)</b><br>3:2,14,19,23;4:3,<br>12;10:15;14:10;21:8;<br>27:18;36:16;38:5,13;<br>39:6  |
| <b>\$3.3 (2)</b><br>35:3,5                             | <b>advisement (1)</b><br>39:9                              | <b>around (2)</b><br>24:1;26:23                                  | <b>behalf (1)</b><br>3:17  | <b>change (2)</b><br>11:3;13:22  |
| <b>\$3-plus (1)</b><br>13:19                           | <b>affairs (2)</b><br>8:6,21                               | <b>assume (1)</b><br>34:2  | <b>better (1)</b><br>31:6  | <b>changed (2)</b><br>7:8;33:19  |
| <b>\$400,000 (1)</b><br>24:7                           | <b>afternoon (5)</b><br>3:3,11;8:15;9:14;<br>39:10         | <b>attempt (1)</b><br>36:6                                       | <b>beyond (1)</b><br>23:10   | <b>changes (2)</b><br>9:2;10:3   |
| <b>\$5 (2)</b><br>15:9,10                              | <b>again (4)</b><br>3:9;14:18;18:15;<br>20:23              | <b>attendance (1)</b><br>3:7                                     | <b>big (1)</b><br>20:17  | <b>changing (1)</b><br>10:23   |
| <b>\$6.73 (2)</b><br>9:23;10:8                         | <b>aggregates (1)</b><br>29:10                             | <b>attention (2)</b><br>5:3;9:3                                  | <b>bill (6)</b><br>9:8,19,23;10:5;<br>11:6;28:13   | <b>Charge (4)</b><br>10:24;11:4;12:9;<br>31:11   |
| <b>\$7.30 (1)</b><br>10:9                              | <b>agree (4)</b><br>10:12;12:18;19:11;<br>26:9             | <b>Attorney (1)</b><br>19:14                                     | <b>billion (3)</b><br>15:4,9,10  | <b>charged (1)</b><br>11:23  |
| <b>\$7.33 (1)</b><br>10:5                              | <b>agreement (4)</b><br>22:2,6;25:17;27:8                  | <b>August (2)</b><br>6:10,18                                     | <b>bit (2)</b><br>6:21;11:13   | <b>charges (6)</b><br>5:7;11:11;13:20;<br>19:18;35:24;36:1   |
| <b>\$9 (1)</b><br>35:8                                 | <b>allocate (1)</b><br>31:22                               | <b>available (1)</b><br>36:13                                    | <b>Boston (1)</b><br>15:19   | <b>checked (1)</b><br>38:9   |
| <b>[</b>   | <b>allocated (6)</b><br>29:5,15;31:12;<br>32:22;35:24;36:1 | <b>away (1)</b><br>36:22   | <b>both (2)</b><br>18:12;31:10   | <b>choices (1)</b><br>28:12  |
| <b>[Court (2)</b><br>14:5;27:12                        | <b>allocation (3)</b><br>33:18,20;34:8                     | <b>B</b>   | <b>briefly (2)</b><br>11:9;20:7  | <b>class (4)</b><br>31:22;32:2,3,24  |
| <b>[No (1)</b><br>38:4                                 | <b>allow (1)</b><br>22:6                                   | <b>back (7)</b><br>6:9;18:15;20:21;<br>24:9;27:4;28:16,16        | <b>bring (2)</b><br>5:2;9:3  | <b>classes (2)</b><br>30:24;31:11  |
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