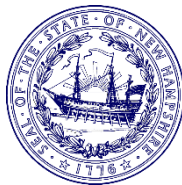


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January 28, 2022

Via Electronic Mail Only

Daniel C. Goldner, Chair  
Public Utilities Commission  
21 S. Fruit Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DE 21-133 Low Income Electric Assistance Program, 2021-2022 Electric Assistance Program Budgets, *Parties' Report to the Commission Regarding a Procedural Schedule in this Docket*

Dear Chair Goldner:

The parties in this docket include Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (UES), Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource), Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty), the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC), the Community Action Agencies (CAA), the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA), the Department of Energy (DOE), and LISTEN Community Services (LISTEN).

At the January 27, 2022 prehearing conference (PHC), the Commission identified specific issues to be addressed by the parties in the final hearing in this matter. The Commission also orally approved the EAP 2021-2022 administrative budgets, and directed the parties to develop a procedural schedule for the duration of the docket. In addition, the Commission indicated that it would issue a prehearing conference order.

After the PHC, the parties and counsel met informally to discuss a procedural schedule. Notwithstanding the transcript excerpt provided by the Stenographer of record on January 28, 2022, the parties<sup>1</sup> believe that it would be prudent to first review the prehearing conference order prior to developing a procedural schedule.

The parties respectfully request that the Commission promptly issue an order on the prehearing conference. *See* RSA 541-A:31(b)-(d); NH Code Admin. R. Puc 203.15 (e). Following receipt of the order, the parties will reconvene to discuss a proposed procedural schedule. This will permit the parties to better understand the purpose and scope of the Commission's inquiry and expectations, and will permit the parties to more accurately estimate the time and process needed to address the Commission's issues. For example, the parties are unclear if the Commission expects the typical process in which parties submit prefiled testimony of witnesses who will testify at the hearing,

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<sup>1</sup> At the OCA's request, this and any subsequent reference to "the parties" do not include the OCA.

or whether the Commission would simply like written responses to the questions posed at the PHC, or something else. A review of the PHC order and the parties' participation in a subsequent discussion will also permit the parties to better estimate an appropriate hearing date. All parties agree that in light of the new issues raised by the Commission at the PHC, the current March 10, 2022 hearing date must be extended in order to develop a complete record. The parties, therefore, renew the proposal made at hearing to reconsider that date pending the parties' submission of a proposed procedural schedule. In addition, the parties are not opposed to closing this docket in the event the Commission wishes to open and notice a separate docket for the consideration of the issues identified in the PHC order.

The parties respectfully request that premarked exhibits 1-12 filed for the PHC be admitted without objection.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer*

Mary E. Schwarzer  
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner  
NH Department of Energy

cc: Service List

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