

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-133

STATEWIDE LOW-INCOME ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2021-2022 Program Administrative Budgets

**Order on Joint Motion to Retain Consultant, Suspend Docket,
and Approve Procedural Schedule**

ORDER NO. 26,593

March 16, 2022

On February 28, 2022, the parties in this docket filed a joint motion requesting that the Commission approve the Electric Assistance Program (EAP) Advisory Board's June 16, 2021 recommendation to retain a consultant to review and evaluate the EAP. In their joint motion, the parties requested that the Commission suspend the above-captioned docket to allow the EAP Advisory Board time to review the consultant's report, and they requested that the Commission approve the parties' proposed procedural schedule.

The procedural schedule is approved with modification. In addition to approving April 28, 2022 as the deadline for selection of a consultant, the parties shall notify the Commission of the contract cost on April 28, 2022.

The motion to retain a consultant is GRANTED, in that either the New Hampshire Department of Energy (NHDOE) or the electric utilities shall develop an RFP for selecting a consultant, issue it, and select the winning bidder. The scope of the consultant's work shall use the EAP Advisory Board's June 16, 2021 recommendation as a baseline, as well as include the following: (1) collect data on the demographics of the participants, as to age, employment status, family size, ages of children, and disabilities; (2) explore improved low income targeting, shifting benefit away from the


top income category to better serve the lowest income group enrolled in the EAP; and (3) consider the option of returning excess funding to ratepayers. The consultant should review and answer the Commission's questions in Order No. 26,576 (February 3, 2022) that do not have a responsive answer. The consultant should also conduct a comparative analysis by comparing the New Hampshire program to EAP programs in New England.

The motion to suspend the docket is GRANTED, and the docket is suspended until August 15, 2022. On or before August 15, 2022, the NHDOE or the electric utilities shall file with the Commission the consultant's report and written recommendations, together with the EAP Advisory Board's recommendation for changes to the current EAP programs. The parties may file comments on or before August 29, 2022.

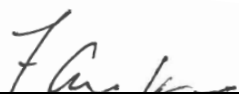
Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED,

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this sixteenth day of March, 2022.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Anne Ross
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-133

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