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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

August 1, 2023

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: Docket No. DE 22-043 Low Income Electric Assistance Program, 2022-2023 Electric Assistance Program Budgets, *Department expenditure for software*

Docket No. DE 23-xxx Low Income Electric Assistance Program, 2023-2024 Electric Assistance Program Budgets, *Department expenditure for software*

Dear Chairman Goldner:

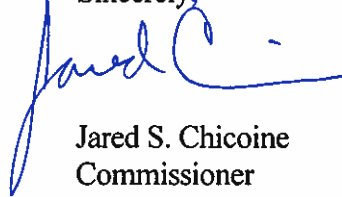
When considering issues raised in the Commission's Order dated July 17, 2023 in Docket No. 22-043, the Commission should be aware that the New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department) has allocated and intends to expend \$450,000 of the \$7,000,000 appropriated to the Department by Laws 2022: 346:4 to replace the software programming utilized by the Community Action Agencies to administer the Electric Assistance Program (EAP), Fuel Assistance Program (FAP), and Weatherization Assistance Program.

Current software is shared by EAP and FAP and is approximately twenty years old. It is at the end of its useful life, and new software is required. Development of new software is expected to be costly. To maximize efficiency in the use of its appropriated funds, the Department intends to leverage them by developing EAP software in conjunction with, and integrated into, new software to be utilized by the Community Action Agencies to jointly administer all three programs. The joint project will decrease the individual cost of software development and program administration for all three of the programs. The Department plans to issue a request for proposals for software development in the near future. Rollout of the new software is planned for the second quarter of 2024.

This letter is being filed simultaneously in Docket No. DE 23-043 and the new docket to be opened for 2023-2024 Electric Assistance Program Budgets.

Consistent with the Commission's current practice, this letter is being filed solely in electronic form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared Chicoine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

Cc: Josh Elliot, Director of Policy and Programs, NH Department of Energy
David Shulock, General Counsel, NH Department of Energy
Amanda Noonan, Director, Consumer Services, NH Department of Energy
Mary Schwarzer, Staff Attorney, NH Department of Energy

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Dkt. No. DE 22-043

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