

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 22-043

STATEWIDE LOW-INCOME ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Procedural Order Re: Approval of Proposed Procedural Schedule, Re-Affirmation of Scope of Proceeding, and Scheduling of February 21, 2024 Hearing

On September 22, 2023, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE), on behalf of all the parties¹ in the above-captioned docket, and in response to a Commission procedural order issued on September 11, 2023, filed joint comments on scoping matters (Scoping Comments) and a proposed procedural schedule, with the first feature being a remote Technical Session on January 22, 2024. The parties also requested a hearing during either the week of February 19 or February 26, 2024.

In their Scoping Comments, the parties advocated for a targeted approach, wherein the Scoping Areas 1 through 6 addressed by the Commission in its August 22, 2023 Prehearing Order issued in this instant docket would be deemed to have been addressed by either Commission Orders No. 26,132 (May 4, 2018) and No. 26,870 (August 9, 2023), or the “Colton Report” filed in this docket on October 3, 2022, or some combination thereof. (For Scoping Area 7, that relating to the EAP Triennial Process Evaluations, the parties did acknowledge that this was an appropriate area of inquiry beyond the scope of the above-cited Orders, or the “Colton Report” itself).

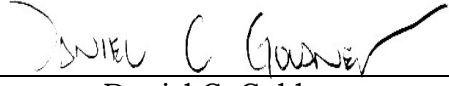
In response to the Scoping Comments, and requested procedural schedule, presented in the DOE’s September 22 filing, the Commission makes the following rulings.

¹ The parties to this proceeding are: the DOE; the Community Action Agencies; Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy; Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.; the New Hampshire Electric Co-operative; Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty; the Office of the Consumer Advocate; and LISTEN, represented by New Hampshire Legal Assistance.

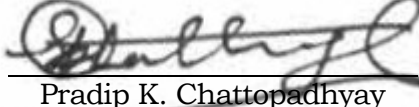
The Commission APPROVES the DOE's assented-to procedural schedule. Consistent with that schedule, the Commission schedules a hearing on February 21, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The hearing will be conducted in person, in accordance with the previously issued hearing guidelines. If additional time will be required, the parties are requested to notify the Commission within ten days from the date of this order.

Regarding the Scoping Comments, the Commission declines to adopt these recommendations for a narrow approach to the question of appropriate modifications to the EAP program, for the October 2024-September 2025 EAP program year and beyond. Instead, the Commission hereby re-affirms the broader scope of inquiry delineated in the August 22, 2023 Prehearing Order, and the July 17, 2023 Order of Notice, issued in this proceeding.

So ordered, this fifth day of January, 2024.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-043

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