STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DE 22-063

TOWN OF EXETER Office of the Town Manager 10 Front Street Exeter, NH 03833

Request for Approval of Exeter Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan

Commission Approval of Community Power Aggregation Plan

<u>O R D E R N O. 26,730</u>

November 18, 2022

In this order, the Commission approves the Town of Exeter's (Exeter) Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan (Plan).

I. BACKGROUND

On September 22, 2022, Exeter submitted a request for approval of a community power aggregation plan to provide electric power supply and services for residents, businesses, and other entities in Exeter pursuant to RSA chapter 53-E. Accompanying its request, Exeter submitted the text of its Plan with attachments.

On September 27, 2022, the Commission issued an order of notice establishing a deadline for comments on Exeter's Plan.

No comments were received.

Exeter's request, along with all subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, is posted at: <u>https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2022/22-063.html</u>.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission has reviewed Exeter's Plan pursuant to RSA 53-E:7, II, as

amended, which states that

The commission shall approve any plan submitted to it unless it finds that it does not meet the requirements of this chapter and other applicable rules and shall detail in writing addressed to the governing bodies of the municipalities or counties concerned, the specific respects in which the proposed plan substantially fails to meet the requirements of this chapter and applicable rules.

RSA 53-E:7, II also provides specific direction on the process to be used for the submission of such plans, including the following requirements: 1) on the same day the plan is submitted to the Commission, copies shall be provided to the Office of the Consumer Advocate and any electric distribution utility providing service within the jurisdiction of the municipality; 2) the Commission shall accept public comments for 21 days thereafter; and 3) the Commission's review of the plan and comments shall not require a contested case.

Exeter's submission complied with these procedural requirements. Under the terms of the Plan, Exeter's Select Board may, after consolation with the Town Manager and Exeter's Community Power Aggregation Committee, elect to either conduct a competitive solicitation to hire a Community Power Broker/Service Provider (which may be coordinated with other interested municipalities), or participate fully in the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH). Despite not identifying with finality whether Exeter will utilize a bid/broker model or participate in the CPCNH, the Plan assumes participation in CPCNH. CPCNH is a joint powers agency authorized under RSA 53-A, where members-municipalities would utilize joint resources with each other, including shared third-party services, staff support, power solicitations, local project development, information sharing, and public advocacy.

Based on our review of the Plan, we have determined that Exeter's Plan does not substantially fail to meet the applicable requirements of RSA Chapter 53-E. Exeter's Plan contains an adequate level of detail with respect RSA 53-E:6, III's statutory criteria and applicable rules, including the Puc chapter 2200 rules.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby determined that the Town of Exeter's Request for Plan Approval is APPROVED.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighteenth day of November, 2022.

JIE

Daniel C. Goldner Chairman

Pradip K. Chattopadhyay Commissioner

Carleton B. Simpson Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-063

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