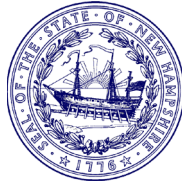


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

May 11, 2023

To: Commissioners

From: Eric Wind, Examiner

Re: DE 23-001 New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Proposed Purchase of Receivables Program

EXAMINER'S REPORT

The Commission's Commencement of Adjudicative Proceeding and Notice of Hearing (Notice) in this matter issued on March 27, 2023, scheduled a prehearing conference for May 2. At your request, I served as examiner and presiding officer for the prehearing conference.

APPEARANCES

Attorney Douglas L. Patch for the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC).

Attorney Alexandra K. Ladwig for the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE).

PRELIMINARY POSITIONS

NHEC stated that its proposed Purchase of Receivables Program (POR Program) is consistent with statutory requirements, is reasonable, and should be approved by the Commission. NHEC summarized Mr. Clark's pre-filed testimony and noted it expects to implement its POR Program approximately 13 months after it receives Commission approval.

The DOE offered no preliminary position.

ISSUES RAISED

According to the parties, prior to the prehearing conference the DOE circulated a proposed procedural schedule. The DOE inquired about availability of hearing dates during the third week in October 2023. A hold is on the Commission calendar for October 17, 2023 for the hearing in this matter. After the PHC, the DOE filed an agreed upon procedural schedule using this date.

As for the standard of review, I discussed that the Notice states that the issues presented include whether NHEC's POR Program is consistent with RSA 53-E and N.H. Code Admin. R. ch. 2200. The

parties agreed that the standard of review can be narrowed to whether the POR Program is consistent with RSA 53-E:9, II.

I also asked clarifying questions related to NHEC's estimated administrative cost estimate, how NHEC's status as rural electric cooperative might impact the development of a complete record in this proceeding, and what level of ongoing oversight of the Proposed POR NHEC seeks. NHEC and the DOE made brief clarifying comments related to these issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend the Commission approve the parties' proposed procedural schedule. A hold is on the Commission calendar for October 17, 2023. As the procedural schedule is agreed upon, I recommend issuing the appended proposed Prehearing Order without providing a period for comments or exceptions, and that this matter proceed in normal course according to that schedule.

Respectfully Submitted

/s/

Attorney Eric Wind
Examiner
Senior Advisor

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 23-001

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Proposed Purchase of Receivables Program

Prehearing Order

The Commission adopts the examiner's report and recommendations filed on May 10, 2023 as its prehearing order. The Commission approves the assented-to procedural schedule filed by the New Hampshire Department of Energy. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for October 17, 2023, starting at 9:00 a.m. One day has been allotted for this hearing, which will be conducted in person consistent with the previously issued hearing guidelines.

So ordered, this XXX day of May, 2023.

Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman