

Notice Number 2023-208

Rule Number Puc 600

<p>1. Agency Name & Address:</p> <p>Public Utilities Commission 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, New Hampshire, 03301</p>	<p>2. RSA Authority: <u>RSA 365:8, I(b), (e), and (l)</u></p> <p>3. Federal Authority: _____</p> <p>4. Type of Action:</p> <p>Adoption _____</p> <p>Repeal _____</p> <p>Readoption _____</p> <p>Readoption w/amendment <u>X</u></p>
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5. Short Title: **Rules for Water Service**

6. (a) Summary of what the rule says and of any proposed amendments:

The Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is proposing to readopt with amendment the existing Chapter Puc 600 on rules for water service to reflect the division of water service regulatory responsibilities between the Commission and the Department of Energy (Department), which was created under RSA 12-P:2, I, after consultation between the two agencies. The Department is concurrently proposing to adopt its own rules related to water service Chapter En 600. Taken together, the Commission's proposed rules and the Department's proposed Chapter En 600 rules maintain the existing extent and scope of state regulation of water service as is currently reflected in Puc 600.

The Commission is proposing to readopt with amendment, in substantially the same form as the existing rules, rules that define relevant terms used in the rule set, establish tariff requirements and contents, require Commission authorization to provide water service, prescribe recordkeeping and record retention requirements, prescribe reporting and accounting standards, prescribe processes and standards for utility requests for authority to issue securities, and rules for expedited small water utility rate proceedings.

Proposed amendments include the deletion of existing provisions in rules governing customer relations, meter accuracy and testing, equipment and facilities, accident and leak reporting, other reporting, and enforcement procedures which the Department is proposing to adopt as part of Chapter En 600 in a rulemaking proceeding that is occurring contemporaneously with this proposed action.

Proposed amendments also include edits, updates, clarifying changes, and cross references to the Department's proposed rule set.

6. (b) Brief description of the groups affected:

Puc 600 rules generally apply to any public utility providing water service to the public in the state of New Hampshire and their customers.

6. (c) Specific section or sections of state statute or federal statute or regulation which the rule is intended to implement:

Rule	Specific State Statute the Rule Implements
Puc 601.01 – Puc 602.10	RSA 365:8, I(e) and (l)
Puc 603.01	RSA 365:8, I(e) and (l); RSA 378:3
Puc 604.01 – Puc 604.05	RSA 365:8, I(e) and (l); RSA 374:3, 5, and 15
Puc 605.01	RSA 365:8, I(e) and (l); RSA 374:3, 4, and 37-39
Puc 606.01	RSA 365:8, I(e) and (l); RSA 374:15
Puc 606.02	RSA 365:8, I(e) and (l); RSA 369:1 and 3
Puc 606.03– Puc 606.04	RSA 365:8, I(e) and (l); RSA 374:3 and 15
Puc 607.01 – Puc 607.09	RSA 365:8, I(b), (e), and (l); RSA 374:3 and 15; RSA 378:3

7. Contact person for copies and questions including requests to accommodate persons with disabilities:

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 or dial 711 (in NH)

8. Deadline for submission of materials in writing or, if practicable for the agency, in the electronic format specified: **October 13, 2023**

Fax E-mail Other format (specify):

9. Public hearing scheduled for:

Date and Time: **October 4, 2023, 10:00 a.m. (jointly with Department of Energy)**
 Place: **N.H. Public Utilities Commission, Hearing Room B**
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, NH 03301

10. Fiscal Impact Statement (Prepared by Legislative Budget Assistant):

FIS # 23:207, dated August 28, 2023

1. **Comparison of the costs of the proposed rule(s) to the existing rule(s):**
 There is no difference in cost when comparing the proposed rules to the existing rules.
2. **Cite the Federal mandate. Identify the impact on state funds:**
 No federal mandate, no impact on state funds.
3. **Cost and benefits of the proposed rule(s):**
 - A. **To State general or State special funds:**
 None.

B. To State citizens and political subdivisions:

None.

C. To independently owned businesses:

None.

11. Statement Relative to Part I, Article 28-a of the N.H. Constitution:

The proposed rules do not mandate or assign any new, expanded, or modified programs or responsibilities to any political subdivision of the state of New Hampshire, and therefore do not violate Part I, Article 28-a of the N.H. Constitution by necessitating additional local expenditures by a political subdivision.