

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DRM 23-052

RULEMAKING

**New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc ch. 500
Rules for Gas Service**

ORDER OF NOTICE

The Commission hereby provides notice of its intent to readopt with amendment N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc ch. 500, Rules for Gas Service. The intended action of the rulemaking is to readopt with amendment existing Puc 500 to reflect the division of gas service regulatory responsibilities between the Commission and the Department of Energy, which was created under RSA 12-P:2, I, after consultation between the two agencies.

The Commission will readopt with amendment, in substantially the same form as existing rules, rules that define relevant terms used in the rule set, establish tariff requirements and contents, require Commission authorization to provide gas 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 govern utility advertising and advertising expense recovery.

Proposed amendments include the repeal of existing parts of rules governing gas quality, meter accuracy and testing, equipment and facilities, safety standards, accident and leak reporting, other reporting and accounting, and enforcement procedures which the Department of Energy intends to adopt as part of a new proposed rule set (En 500) in a rulemaking proceeding that will occur contemporaneously with this proposed action. The proposed Puc 500 rules preserve

the hearings and appeal processes related to enforcement in the existing Puc 500 rules, reflecting the enforcement responsibility of the Department of Energy and the adjudication role of the Commission; hearing requests must be made within ten days of the Department of Energy issuing a notice of violation.

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


A Notice of Rulemaking (Notice), as required by RSA 541-A:6, was published in New Hampshire's Rulemaking Register No. 18, dated May 4, 2023. In addition, a copy of the Notice has been sent to all persons who have made a timely request for advance notice of Commission rulemaking proceedings, the service list in Docket No. DRM 11-077, and shall be posted on the Commission's bulletin board and website. Pursuant to Puc 205.05 and RSA 541-A:11, a public hearing, conducted jointly with the Department of Energy, will be held at the Commission on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in Hearing Room A. Written comments will be accepted through Thursday, July 13, 2023. The Notice as published in New Hampshire's Rulemaking Register and the Commission's initial proposal for rulemaking are posted to the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2023/23-052.html>, or copies may be obtained from the Commission as set forth in the Notice.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Public Hearing, pursuant to RSA 541-A:11, to hear comment on the Commission's proposal to readopt without amendment N.H. Code Admin. R. Puc ch. 500 will be held at 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire in Hearing Room A, on June 29, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., and that the deadline for submission of materials in writing or by e-mail shall be July 13, 2023, as set forth in the Notice; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, a copy of this Order of Notice shall be posted on the Commission's website and bulletin board within two business days of this order.

So ordered, this ninth day of May, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel C. Goldner", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Department of Energy, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-3670; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made no later than one week prior to the scheduled event.

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 23-052

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