

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 24-074

TOWN OF MASON

Request for Approval of Mason Community Power Plan

Commission Approval of Community Power Aggregation Plan

ORDER NO. 27,032

July 10, 2024

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

I. BACKGROUND

On May 16, 2024, Mason 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 Mason pursuant to RSA chapter 53-E. In addition to the request for approval, the Town submitted the proposed Plan with attachments.

On May 24, 2024, the Commission issued an order of notice establishing a deadline for comments on the Plan.

No comments were received.

All docket filings, other than information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2024/24-074.html>.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission has reviewed the 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, 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. N.H. Admin R. Puc 2204.01(a) also requires notification of aggregation plan filings be made with the New Hampshire Department of Energy. The Town's submission complied with these procedural requirements.

Mason's Plan considers, but does not require, that Mason will participate fully in the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) to provide electric energy supply and related program services. CPCNH is a joint powers agency authorized under RSA 53-A, where member-municipalities utilize joint resources with each other, including shared third-party services, staff support, power solicitations, local project development, information sharing, and public advocacy.

Since 2022 the Commission has reviewed and approved numerous municipal and county community aggregation plans. The Commission is aware of the ongoing difficulty that faces existing utility net metering customers. Specifically, the public utilities have indicated to the Commission, via filing a petition to grant temporary or permanent waivers of Puc 2205.16(d)(1), an inability to accurately calculate charges and credits for existing net metering customers who join the community aggregation

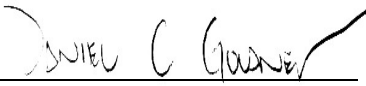
plans. See Docket No. DE 23-063 Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty and Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.

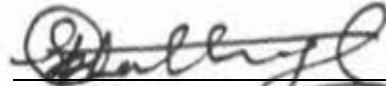
Although the Commission finds that Section D.4. of the Plan involving Net Metering Compensation meets the minimum standards required by 53-E, the Commission instructs that the outreach material accurately account for the ongoing issues Net Metering customers experience when opting into a community aggregation programs. Specifically, electric distribution utilities are unable to accurately calculate charges and credits for existing net metering customers who join community aggregation plans.

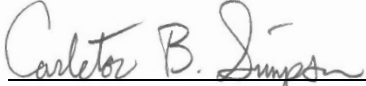
Based on our review of the Plan, we have determined that the Plan does not substantially fail to meet applicable requirements of RSA chapter 53-E or applicable rules. The Plan contains an adequate level of detail of RSA 53-E:6's statutory criteria, other applicable statutory requirements, and applicable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

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

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this tenth day of July, 2024.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner


Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 24-074

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