

Smith, Kim

From: Smith, Kim
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 11:23 AM
To: legals@unionleader.com
Subject: For Publication - Order of Notice
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**New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301**

May 4, 2012

The Union Leader Corporation
Manchester, NH 03105

Re: For Publication

Please find attached an Order of Notice in DE 12-097, Electric and Gas Utilities. Please publish this Order of Notice in one run of the *Union Leader* no later than May 17, 2012. Mail the tear sheet and invoice to Debbie Gilman, Business Office at the above address and send an affidavit of publication to Debra Howland, at the same address. A confirmation of this email to the sender would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Kim Smith
Administrative Assistant

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21 South Fruit St., Ste. 10
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cc: Business Office
DE 12-097

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**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 12-097

ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES

**Investigation into Purchase of Receivables, Customer Referral and Electronic
Interface for Electric and Gas Distribution Utilities**

ORDER OF NOTICE

In Order No. 25,256 (July 26, 2011) entered in Docket No. DE 10-160, *Public Service Company of New Hampshire, Investigation into Effects of Customer Migration*, the Commission stated that it would open a generic proceeding to explore whether purchase of receivables, customer referral and electronic interface programs should be implemented in New Hampshire to support customer choice in energy supply for all residential electric utility customers and for smaller commercial electric and gas utility customers. On April 16, 2012, the Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA) filed a letter requesting that the Commission open the above referenced generic proceeding and conduct an investigation into these and other retail electric market enhancements as soon as possible.

In light of Commission Order No. 25,256 and in response to RESA's letter, the Commission opens this docket to investigate the merits of instituting purchase of receivables, customer referral and electronic interface programs for both electric and natural gas distribution utilities in New Hampshire. The Commission will solicit comment from utilities and interested parties regarding the benefits and customer impacts of such programs, including the impact on customers who remain on supply offered by the applicable distribution utility. In addition, the Commission will seek comments from utilities and interested parties regarding the operation of

such programs in other states, the levels of payments by competitive suppliers to distribution utilities for any additional costs incurred by the distribution utilities in connection with offering the programs, the essential elements of each program, and recommendations regarding program initiation and implementation.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at: <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2012/12-097.html>.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether a purchase of receivables, customer referral and electronic interface programs will promote customer choice consistent with the restructuring principles of RSA 374-F:3; and whether the resulting rates associated with the programs are just and reasonable pursuant to RSA 378:5 and 7. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on May 31, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to any of the issues set forth in this Order of Notice and in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, the electric and gas distribution utilities, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to establish procedures and a schedule for the conduct of this proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the Executive Director shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than May 17, 2012, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before May 31, 2012; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all electric and gas distribution utilities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction shall be made mandatory parties to this proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to the electric and gas distribution utilities and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before May 28, 2012, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before May 31, 2012.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this third day of May, 2012.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.