

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

DE 12-362

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

**Rebate of Excess Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Allowance Auction Proceeds
to Default Service Customers**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

In 2012, the legislature enacted Chapter 281 (HB 1490) amending RSA 125-O:19 *et seq.*, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) statute, effective January 1, 2013. Pursuant to the RGGI statute, the State of New Hampshire participates in the quarterly auction of budget allowances that comprise the state's annual allocation for carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Under current law, the proceeds from such auctions are deposited into the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund. The Commission manages the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund pursuant to RSA 125-O:23 and New Hampshire Code Admin. Rules Puc 2600.

When the provisions of Chapter 281 take effect on January 1, 2013, revenues from the periodic auction of New Hampshire's annual CO₂ budget allowances will be deposited in a newly-created Energy Efficiency Fund, which replaces the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund. The amendments approved in Chapter 281 also require that any auction revenue amounts in excess of one dollar received for each RGGI allowance be rebated "to all default service electric ratepayers in the state on a per-kilowatt-hour basis, in a timely manner to be determined by the commission." Chap. 281:4.

RGGI auctions are conducted on a quarterly basis in March, June, September and December of each year. Based on this schedule, the first RGGI auction implicated by the changes to RSA 125-O:19 *et seq.* will occur in March 2013. The Commission opened this

docket to receive comment on the method and timing by which it should administer the rebate to default service electric ratepayers of auction proceeds that exceed the threshold amount of one dollar per allowance. Among the issues that should be addressed in public comment are the following: whether the allocation of rebate amounts to the electric utilities providing default service should be based on (i) historical kilowatt-hours (kWh) of default service supplied to default service customers and, if so, the appropriate historical period of time for determining such allocation, (ii) the number of default service customers, (iii) the respective amounts of RGGI costs paid by the customers of the individual default service providers over some historical period of time, (iv) a combination of those factors, or (v) other factors; whether the rebate to default service customers and associated calculations should occur on a quarterly or some other basis; whether the rebate be included in a electric utility's current quarterly or semi-annual default service rate adjustment request, or occur once per year; whether customer bills should be modified to denote the rebate amount by kWh in each monthly bill; and any other matters implicated by the rebate of auction proceeds that exceed the threshold amount.

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.html>

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 public comment hearing on the issues raised in this Notice be held on January 17, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that comments and suggestions may also be filed by email at executive.director@puc.nh.gov; and it is

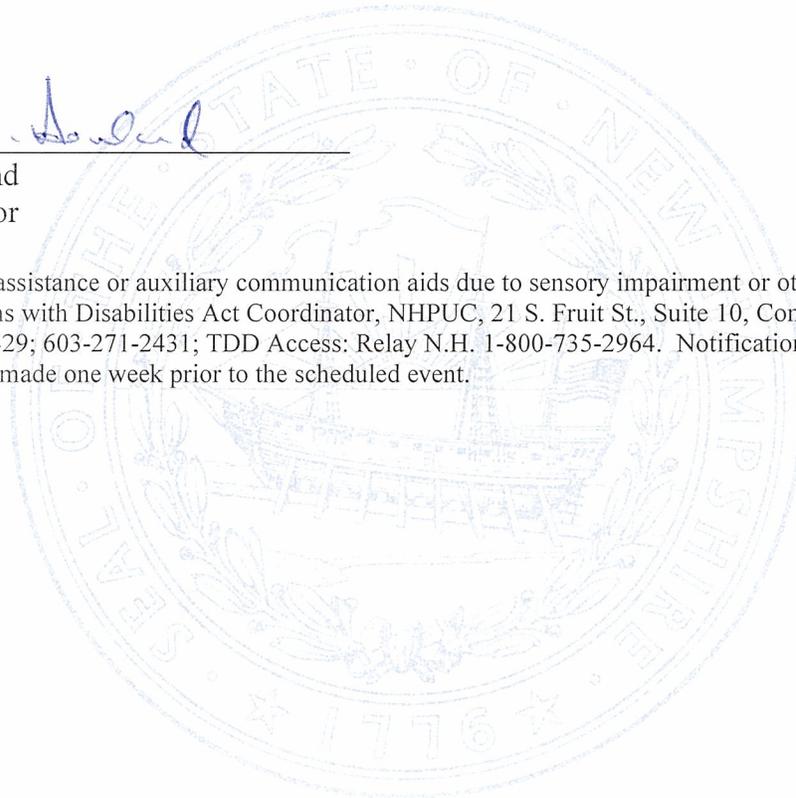
FURTHER ORDERED, that the Executive Director shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by posting a copy of this Order of Notice on the Commission's website no later than December 24, 2012.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-first day of December, 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.



SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with: DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.

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