



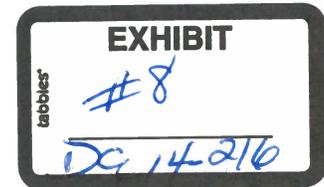
DE 14-216

NHPUC 26SEP'16AMS:07

September 23, 2016

Via Electronic Mail and US Mail

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

**Re: DE 14-216 – 2017 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan
Continuation Filing**

Dear Director Howland:

On August 2, 2016, in Order No. 25,932 in Docket No. DE 15-137, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“NHPUC”) approved a settlement agreement by a diverse group of stakeholders, including state agencies, environmental and low-income advocacy groups, the state’s utilities, and others, to implement an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (“EERS”) in New Hampshire beginning in 2018. To prepare for the implementation of the EERS, the Settlement Agreement provided that the energy efficiency programs operating under the name NHSaves as implemented by Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities; New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy; Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.; Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp d/b/a Liberty Utilities; and Northern Utilities, Inc. (collectively, “the NH Utilities”) should be continued for 2017. Included in this submission are the NH Utilities’ proposals and recommendations for the NHSaves programs for 2017.

For over a decade, the NH Utilities have worked collaboratively to develop and implement cost-effective, award-winning energy efficiency programs which have provided substantial energy and cost savings to New Hampshire’s electric and natural gas customers. The 2017 plan will extend, and expand, those programs. As part of the enclosed continuation plan, and in line with the Settlement Agreement, the NH Utilities are offering proposals intended to achieve goals of 0.60% for electric savings and 0.66% for gas savings, as a percent of 2014 delivered sales, on route to even greater energy efficiency savings under the EERS. The measures implemented in 2017 will reduce peak demand by 8 MW, which in turn will reduce costs for all customers, and the programs will save customers \$148 million in energy costs over the life of the measures.

As described more fully in the enclosed filing, the 2017 plan includes changes that will allow the NHSaves programs to remain current in the marketplace while positioning them for additional growth in the future, including:



- A Net Zero Home Challenge which will highlight super high efficiency zero net energy homes and the building contractors who construct them.
- Additional ENERGY STAR products offered in the residential appliance program and the addition of primary refrigerators to the appliance recycling program.
- Increased budgets for the Home Energy Assistance Program, from 15.5 percent of total program budget to 17 percent.

These changes are in addition to other adjustments in the programs by the NH Utilities, as well as by individual companies.

To aid in implementing the various enhancements, the 2017 plan provides for the implementation of a lost base revenue (“LBR”) adjustment to the System Benefits Charge as explained in the enclosed testimony of Karen M. Asbury, Christopher J. Goulding, Heather M. Tebbetts, and Carol M. Woods on behalf of the electric utilities. For the natural gas utilities, the implementation of the LBR is addressed separately, in each of those utilities’ Cost of Gas proceedings. Lastly, the 2017 plan explains how, with the implementation of the LBR, the performance incentive available to the NH Utilities has been lowered.

The NH Utilities are pleased and proud to present this 2017 plan to help New Hampshire move toward the implementation of an EERS. The NH Utilities look forward to working with the Commission, its Staff, and other stakeholders, to review this plan and to implement it for the benefit of New Hampshire and its utility customers. Please contact me if there are any questions about this filing. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Matthew J. Fossum
Senior Counsel, Eversource Energy
o/b/o the Electric and Natural Gas Utilities

Enclosures
cc: Service List