

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

DE 14-216

ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES

**2015-2016 Core Electric Energy Efficiency Programs
and Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Programs**

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 12, 2014, Granite State Electric Company d/b/a Liberty Utilities, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Public Service Company of New Hampshire, and Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (collectively, the Electric Utilities); together with EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. d/b/a Liberty Utilities and Northern Utilities, Inc. (collectively, the Gas Utilities) jointly filed proposals for the 2015-2016 Core New Hampshire Energy Efficiency Programs for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016 with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any 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/2014/14-216.html>.

Funding for the Core electric energy efficiency programs is provided through the System Benefits Charge paid by the Electric Utilities' customers and is supplemented by funds available through the Independent System Operator-New England's Forward Capacity Market and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. When possible, the Electric Utilities participate in other efficiency programs to augment the Core program funds. Funding for the Core natural gas energy efficiency programs is provided through the Conservation Charge, a component of the

Local Distribution Adjustment Charge assessed to the Gas Utilities' customers. Any unspent funds from prior program years for both the Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities are carried forward to the following year's budget, including interest based on the prime rate. The proposed Core electric and gas energy efficiency programs are designed to be consistently available across New Hampshire with equal access for any eligible customer subject to the available budget.

The Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities seek to continue multi-year approvals for their Core programs and specifically request Commission authority to continue to make customer commitments during 2015 and 2016 for projects to be completed after the 2015-2016 Core program term. The Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities seek to make commitments only to those customers who have presented definitive plans for projects to be completed in subsequent years and which include energy efficiency measures contained in the 2015-2016 Core proposal. All Core program guidelines and rules will apply to the 2015-2016 commitments and all customer commitments will be made contingent on the continuation of program funding.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 374-F:3, X and whether the proposed Core programs are reasonable, cost effective, and in the public interest; RSA Chapter 125-O and whether the proposed programs will properly utilize funds from the Energy Efficiency Fund; whether the proposed programs comply with applicable law and Commission requirements relative to cost effectiveness and the need for program consistency; and whether the Electric Utilities' and Gas Utilities' proposed calculation of performance incentives for their respective Core programs complies with Commission orders regarding the calculation of performance incentives. 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 October 10, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

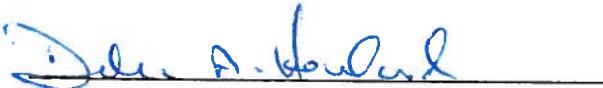
FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the prehearing conference, Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities, the Staff of the Commission, and any intervenors hold a technical session to review the petition and allow the Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities to provide any amendments or updates to their filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than September 22, 2014, 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 October 7, 2014; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, 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 Utilities and Gas Utilities and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 7, 2014, 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. Rules 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 October 10, 2014.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this sixteenth day of September, 2014.



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.