

1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

2 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

3 **October 26, 2016** - 10:02 a.m.
4 Concord, New Hampshire

NHPUC NOV09'16 PM 3:07

5 RE: DE 14-216

6 ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES:
7 2015-2016 CORE New Hampshire
8 Electric and Gas Energy Efficiency
9 Programs, which includes the
10 2017 CORE New Hampshire Energy
11 Efficiency Programs Proposal.
12 (*Prehearing conference*)13 **PRESENT:** Chairman Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding
14 Commissioner Robert R. Scott
15 Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey

16 Sandy Deno, Clerk

17 **APPEARANCES:** Reptg. Public Service of New Hampshire
18 d/b/a Eversource Energy:
19 Matthew J. Fossum, Esq.20 Reptg. Unitil Energy Systems and
21 Northern Utilities:
22 Patrick H. Taylor, Esq.23 Reptg. Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth
24 Natural Gas) Corp. & Liberty Utilities
(Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a
Liberty Utilities:
Michael J. Sheehan, Esq.Reptg. N.H. Electric Cooperative:
Mark W. Dean, Esq.

Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

**CERTIFIED
ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT**

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APPEARANCES: (C o n t i n u e d)

Reptg. Community Action Association.:
Ryan Clouthier, Energy Director
Tim Lenahan, Belknap/Merrimack CAPs

**Reptg. N.H. Office of Energy &
Planning:**
Richard A. Minard, Jr., Dep. Director

Reptg. N.H. Dept. of Environ. Serv.:
Rebecca Ohler
Joseph Fontaine

Reptg. Conservation Law Foundation:
Melissa E. Birchard, Esq.

Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:
Donald M. Kreis, Esq., Consumer Adv.
James Brennan, Finance Director
Office of Consumer Advocate

Reptg. PUC Staff:
Paul B. Dexter, Esq.
Leszek Stachow, Asst. Dir./Electric
Jay Dudley, Electric Division
James J. Cunningham, Jr., Electric
Elizabeth Nixon, Electric Div.

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P R O C E E D I N G

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2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Good morning,
3 everyone. We're here this morning in Docket DE
4 14-216, which was the docket for the 2015 and
5 '16 CORE Electric and Gas Energy Efficiency
6 Programs. We are using it for the 2017 Program
7 as well. We're here for a prehearing
8 conference.

9 And I know there's a lot of people
10 here. So, let's take appearances.

11 MR. FOSSUM: Good morning,
12 Commissioners. Matthew Fossum, here for Public
13 Service Company of New Hampshire doing business
14 as Eversource Energy.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We've got a lot
16 of people here. Who's next?

17 MR. TAYLOR: Patrick Taylor, here on
18 behalf of Unitil. With me here today are Karen
19 Asbury, Mary Downs, and Tom Palma.

20 MR. DEAN: Good morning. Mark Dean,
21 on behalf of the New Hampshire Electric
22 Cooperative.

23 MR. SHEEHAN: Good morning. Mike
24 Sheehan, for Liberty Utilities (Granite State

1 Electric) Corp. and Liberty Utilities
2 (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp.

3 MR. MINARD: Good morning. Richard
4 Minard, from the Office of Energy & Planning.

5 MR. CLOUTHIER: Good morning. I'm
6 Ryan Clouthier, from Southern New Hampshire
7 Services, representing the Community Action
8 Agencies. And with me today is Tim Lenahan,
9 from Belknap/Merrimack Community Action
10 Programs.

11 MS. OHLER: Good morning. Rebecca
12 Ohler, with the New Hampshire Department of
13 Environmental Services. And with me today is
14 Joe Fontaine.

15 MS. BIRCHARD: Good morning. Melissa
16 Birchard, representing Conservation Law
17 Foundation.

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Good morning.
19 I'm Donald Kreis of the Office of Consumer
20 Advocate, here today on behalf of residential
21 utility customers.

22 MR. DEXTER: I am Paul Dexter, on
23 behalf of the Commission Staff, joined by
24 several members of the Electric Division.

1 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is Dennis Labbe
2 here? Anybody else from The Way Home?

3 *[No verbal response.]*

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. I
5 know we have Ms. Birchard's intervention
6 petition for CLF. I assume there's no
7 objection to CLF's participation in this
8 docket?

9 *[No verbal response.]*

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We'll grant that
11 intervention. Welcome, Ms. Birchard.

12 Any other preliminary matters before
13 we ask everyone to give us their opening
14 remarks in this docket?

15 MR. DEXTER: Commissioner, I had --

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Why don't you
17 just remain seated, Mr. Dexter. Just make sure
18 the microphone is on, so the people in the back
19 will hear you better.

20 MR. DEXTER: I had circulated a
21 proposed procedural schedule amongst the
22 Parties, and got a large degree of agreement on
23 the schedule. And I was hoping to present it
24 to the Commission today. But I thought what I

1 would do instead was just get a final sign-off
2 on everyone at our tech session, which follows
3 the prehearing conference, and present it by
4 letter to the Secretary hopefully later today.

5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: That would be
6 typical. We would likely not, unless there
7 were some agreement about what was going on and
8 you needed us to help sort out the schedule,
9 generally, we would let you all work out your
10 schedule in the technical session that will
11 follow the prehearing conference, and then, as
12 you say, present it in a letter. So, that
13 seems perfectly fine.

14 Anything else?

15 MR. DEXTER: I have nothing further.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. We
17 might as well go essentially in the order in
18 which you all entered your appearances.

19 So, Mr. Fossum, you grabbed the
20 microphone first. So, you get to go first now.

21 MR. FOSSUM: Thank you. I don't
22 suppose that I have just a whole lot to say
23 this morning. This filing has been made
24 consistent with the expectations of the

1 Commission following the approval of the
2 Settlement Agreement on the Energy Efficiency
3 Resource Standard over in Docket DE 15-137.

4 It's a filing that's largely
5 consistent with the way that the utilities have
6 run these programs for years. And it is, as
7 noted in it, an intent -- the intent of this
8 filing is to begin the ramp toward more
9 expanded energy efficiency programs that would
10 take place under the EERS, as well as to
11 implement a couple of other items that go along
12 with that on sort of a transitional basis.

13 We've already begun some discovery
14 with the Staff's questions. And, as Mr. Dexter
15 had noted, we've already begun working on a
16 agreed upon procedural schedule. So, I think
17 that this docket is well underway.

18 And we look forward to continuing
19 working on this docket, and reaching an
20 efficient resolution of this docket, so that we
21 can both implement the programs efficiently and
22 without any gaps in them, and so that we can
23 implement the other items contained in the
24 filing as we have all contemplated they would

1 be.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you,
4 Mr. Fossum. Mr. Taylor.

5 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you. Well, I
6 can't really improve upon Mr. Fossum's
7 statement. So, I'll simply say that Unutil
8 looks forward to working with the Parties in
9 this case going forward.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Dean.

11 MR. DEAN: I think Mr. Fossum summed
12 it up articulately and completely. So, we have
13 nothing to add.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Sheehan.

16 MR. SHEEHAN: I will repeat my two
17 prior colleagues. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Minard.

19 MR. MINARD: I only would add that,
20 as part of the Commission's order on the EERS,
21 it directed the State's EESE Board to be part
22 of the stakeholder process for the
23 implementation of the EESE Board. And, as a
24 member of that Board, we're working with the

1 PUC Staff to develop a process to make that
2 useful.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Clouthier.

4 MR. CLOUTHIER: No comment at this
5 time. I look forward to working with all
6 Parties moving forward.

7 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Ohler.

8 MS. OHLER: No significant comments.
9 We would appreciate the utilities moving
10 forward and proposing a plan that achieves
11 additional reductions beyond the last several
12 years. And look forward to working with them
13 to implement them.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Birchard.

16 MS. BIRCHARD: Together with the
17 other parties in this room and some not present
18 today, Conservation Law Foundation --

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Slow down.

20 MS. BIRCHARD: -- Conservation Law
21 Foundation recently participated in the
22 development of the State's first Energy
23 Efficiency Resource Standard, which represents
24 an important step for the state, and saving

1 consumers money, reducing energy consumption,
2 and cutting dirty emissions.

3 In this docket, Conservation Law
4 Foundation supports the continued development
5 and strengthening of the State's Energy
6 Efficiency Program, including the transition to
7 the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard. As
8 the Commission is aware, the evidence shows
9 that energy efficiency done right is a winning
10 investment. I think all of us in this room can
11 agree on that. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Kreis.

13 MR. KREIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 On behalf of the state's residential utility
15 customers, I guess I would say that, since I've
16 been doing a lot of air travel recently, I sort
17 of think of this docket as the taxi on the way
18 to the end of the runway, and that take-off
19 being the transition to the Energy Efficiency
20 Resource Standard that the Commission has
21 approved.

22 So, I'm looking forward to a very
23 smooth and pleasant taxi. And, while we're
24 taxiing, I do have to say that it is a shame

1 that some customers are receiving certain
2 snacks and other customers are not receiving
3 the same snacks. And I refer to the Customer
4 Engagement Platform that Eversource offers its
5 customers, but that has not been deployed in
6 the rest of the state. It would be great if
7 all the customers on the plane could get the
8 same snacks.

9 Subject to that, we look forward to
10 working with all the other Parties and moving
11 this docket to an expeditious conclusion.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Dexter, do
13 you feel in any way compelled to extend that
14 metaphor?

15 *(Laughter.)*

16 MR. DEXTER: Not at all. I will say
17 that Staff plans to look at three issues in
18 this case. One is that the -- that the filing
19 before us is, in fact, a continuation of the
20 2016 CORE Programs, which were approved as
21 Attorney Fossum mentioned.

22 Secondly, for the first time, the
23 utilities will be including a Lost Revenue
24 Adjustment Mechanism -- have included a Lost

1 Revenue Adjustment Mechanism in their filings.
2 Staff will be looking at the Lost Revenue
3 Adjustment Mechanism to make sure it's properly
4 calculated, as laid out in the Settlement, and
5 properly set forth in the tariffs that were
6 presented.

7 And, thirdly, we will be looking at
8 the System Benefits Charge, to make sure that
9 it is calculated in accordance with the
10 Settlement and properly laid out in the tariffs
11 that are presented.

12 So, those are the primary issues
13 Staff will be looking at.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner
15 Scott.

16 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: So, my
17 understanding is, especially for the SBC
18 change, we have a bogey of or a target of the
19 end of December, no later than, for -- this has
20 to be effective January 1st, that's the desired
21 goal, correct?

22 MR. DEXTER: Yes. That is correct.

23 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Did

1 we miss anybody?

2 *[No verbal response.]*

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Anybody else
4 like to offer up any comments?

5 *[No verbal response.]*

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. We
7 will leave you to your technical session. I
8 would suggest that you return your seatbacks
9 and tray tables to their full, upright, and
10 locked positions.

11 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: And no
12 turbulence.

13 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And enjoy the
14 flight, and we hope to have no turbulence, as
15 Commissioner Scott said.

16 ***(Whereupon the prehearing***
17 ***conference was adjourned at***
18 ***10:13 a.m., and a technical***
19 ***session was held thereafter.)***

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