

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

IR 14-338

**LIBERTY UTILITIES (GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC) CORP.,
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND
UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.**

Review of Default Service Procurement Processes for Electric Distribution Utilities

ORDER OF NOTICE

On November 4, 2014, the Commission issued Order No. 25,732 directing that a docket be opened to review various approaches to default service solicitations. The Commission directed Staff to conduct stakeholder discussions with electric distribution utilities, competitive energy suppliers, market participants and customer representatives on different approaches to default service solicitations. Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (UES), Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric Corp.) (Liberty) and Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) shall be mandatory participants in these stakeholder discussions.

In the most recent default service proceedings for Liberty and UES, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) suggested that default service customers may benefit from changing the term of default service procurement from a 6-month block to a 12-month block to mitigate the price spikes that occur in the winter months. The OCA also proposed that procuring power through a laddered portfolio could provide some rate stability. This docket will provide a forum to review these proposals and any other options recommended by stakeholders.

The Commission directs staff to hold an initial discussion with stakeholders beginning on January 14, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. As stated in Order No. 25,732, the Commission's goal is to

complete its review in advance of the procurement of default service supply for the winter period 2015-2016.

Any 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 www.puc.nh.gov.

This docket raises, inter alia, issues related to the relative advantages and disadvantages of the current methods of procuring default energy service by UES, Liberty and PSNH, whether other means of providing default service are consistent with the restructuring principles of RSA 374-F; including potential effects on New Hampshire's retail electricity market; whether price stability should be an option offered by electric distribution utilities as part of default service or otherwise; and whether changes should be made to default service procurement methods to minimize cost shifting between long- and short-term customers of default service. 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 Commission Staff shall convene a stakeholder discussion at the Commission offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on January 14, 2015 at 10:00 a.m; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Executive Director shall notify interested persons by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice on the Commission's website; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all electric distribution companies operating in New Hampshire are directed to participate in these stakeholder discussions.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-fourth day of
November, 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
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- 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.