

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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December 28, 2017

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

NHPUC 29DEC17AM8:12

Re: DE 16-576, Development of New Alternative Net Metering Tariffs and/or
Other Regulatory Mechanisms and Tariffs for Customer-Generators
Quarterly Status and Progress Report of Stakeholder Working Group Process

Dear Ms. Howland:

Pursuant to Order No. 26,029 (June 23, 2017) at 74, the Commission ordered that "reports of the status and progress of the stakeholder working group process shall be filed on a quarterly basis by Commission Staff." This letter represents the second such quarterly status and progress report.

All four stakeholder working groups have met at least once, and further meetings have been or will be scheduled for the January-February time period in early 2018. The following is a brief summary of the major efforts undertaken with respect to each of the four working groups:

Low and Moderate Income Program Working Group

The development of pilot programs for low and moderate income customers is being considered together with the development of program(s) intended to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 129, enacted as 2017 N.H. Laws Chapter 226 (SB 129). SB 129 specified that 15% of the Renewable Energy Fund be used annually to develop renewable energy projects benefitting low and moderate income customers. The Commission opened Docket DE 17-172 to develop, review, and approve program(s) designed to meet the SB 129 requirements, and directed that initial efforts to develop such programs be undertaken concurrently with the low and moderate income working group sessions in the net metering docket. A joint working group session was held on November 15, 2017 and another joint session is scheduled for January 3, 2018. Staff expects to distribute a draft proposal outlining potential SB 129 program(s) prior to or during that next working group session.

Time-of-Use Rate Pilot Program Working Group

Working group participants have discussed alternative approaches for the design and implementation of time-of-use (TOU) rate pilot programs and have heard presentations regarding prior TOU pilot programs conducted in New Hampshire and in other New England states. One of the utilities

previewed a potential approach to TOU rate implementation, and that approach was discussed by various stakeholders. Staff expects that the next meeting of the TOU pilot program working group will be scheduled for late January or early February 2018.

Non-Wires Alternative Pilot Program Working Group

During the non-wires alternative (NWA) pilot program working group session held on November 6, 2017, it became apparent there was a lack of consensus as to the fundamental scope and purpose of the proposed NWA pilot programs. In particular, a number of stakeholders expressed the view that the NWA pilots should not be limited to distributed generation (DG), but should permit participation by various other types of distributed energy resources (DERs), either individually or in the aggregate. The stakeholder representatives attending the working group session agreed that the Commission should be asked to solicit comments from parties and then provide clarification of the relevant issues before pilot program development efforts continue. Staff recommended that the Commission seek written comments from the parties with respect to a list of related questions, and a secretarial letter was issued on November 17, 2017 asking parties to submit written responses to those questions. A number of parties submitted responsive written comments regarding NWA pilot programs and potential alternatives, and Staff is currently reviewing those comments and evaluating the approaches advocated therein.

Value of DER Study Scope Working Group

At its most recent session, the value of distributed energy resources (VDER) study scope working group heard a presentation from Lon Huber of Strategen Consulting, the consultant engaged to work with the Office of the Consumer Advocate in this docket. Mr. Huber summarized a number of value of solar studies performed in other states, and provided a preliminary outline of a potential study approach for New Hampshire based primarily on a VDER analysis recently conducted in New York. Staff is currently developing a draft proposal outlining a potential VDER study scope which it expects to distribute prior to or during the next working group session. That next session is expected to be scheduled for January 2018.

Staff notes that it remains the consensus of working group participants that participation in the working group process should remain open and unrestricted at this time.

I hereby certify that a copy of this letter will be served electronically to the parties on the service list at the same time it is filed with the Commission.

Sincerely,



David K. Wiesner
Staff Attorney

cc: Service List

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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.**

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