

Appendix – Inventory of Relevant New Hampshire Energy Policy

*Italics added to emphasize relevant text*

**NH RSA 125-O**

Multiple Pollutant Reduction Program

**125-O:1 Findings and Purpose.**

- I. The general court finds that *while air quality has improved in recent years, scientific advances have demonstrated that adequate protection of public health, environmental quality, and economic well-being-the 3 cornerstones of New Hampshire's quality of life-requires additional, concerted reductions in air pollutant emissions.* The general court also finds that the state's tradition of environmental leadership-setting an example for similarly feasible air pollution reductions from upwind jurisdictions-is also well served by additional emission reductions.
- II. Recent studies and scientific evidence, documented in the New Hampshire Clean Power Strategy issued in January 2001 by the department of environmental services, indicates that *significant negative human health and ecosystem impacts continue to be caused by air pollution.* The general court finds that the substantial quantities of several harmful air pollutants that continue to be emitted from existing fossil fuel burning steam electric power plants, despite recent reductions in the emission of certain air pollutants from some of these facilities, contribute to these harmful impacts and that additional emissions reductions from these sources are warranted.
- III. *Specifically, the general court finds that aggressive further reductions in emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), mercury, and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) must be pursued.* These pollutants are primarily responsible for the human health and ecosystem impacts documented in the New Hampshire Clean Power Strategy issued in January 2001 by the department of environmental services.
- IV. The general court finds that, as demonstrated by recent analyses, a high quality-of-life environment has been, and will continue to be, essential to New Hampshire's economic well-being. *The general court further finds that protecting New Hampshire's high quality-of-life environment by reducing air pollutant emissions returns substantial economic benefit to the state through avoided health care costs; greater tourism resulting from healthier lakes and improved vistas; more visits by fishermen, hunters, and wildlife viewers to wildlife ecosystems, and a more productive forest and agricultural sector.*
- V. For the above reasons and others, *the general court finds that substantial additional reductions in emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, mercury, and CO<sub>2</sub> must be required of New Hampshire's existing fossil fuel burning steam electric power plants.* Due to the collateral benefits and economies of scale associated with reducing multiple pollutant emissions at the same time, the general court finds that such aggressive emission reductions are both feasible and cost-effective if implemented simultaneously through a comprehensive, integrated power plant strategy.

## Chapter 362-A Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act

### **Section 362-A:1 Declaration of Purpose.**

It is found to be in the public interest to provide for small scale and diversified sources of supplemental electrical power to lessen the state's dependence upon other sources which may, from time to time, be uncertain. *It is also found to be in the public interest to encourage and support diversified electrical production that uses indigenous and renewable fuels and has beneficial impacts on the environment and public health.* It is also found that these goals should be pursued in a competitive environment pursuant to the restructuring policy principles set forth in RSA 374-F:3. It is further found that net energy metering for eligible customer-generators may be one way to provide a reasonable opportunity for small customers to choose interconnected self generation, encourage private investment in renewable energy resources, stimulate in-state commercialization of innovative and beneficial new technology, enhance the future diversification of the state's energy resource mix, and reduce interconnection and administrative costs.

## Chapter 362-F Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard

### **Section 362-F:1 Purpose.**

*Renewable energy generation technologies can provide fuel diversity to the state and New England generation supply through use of local renewable fuels and resources that serve to displace and thereby lower regional dependence on fossil fuels.* This has the potential to lower and stabilize future energy costs by reducing exposure to rising and volatile fossil fuel prices. The use of renewable energy technologies and fuels can also help to keep energy and investment dollars in the state to benefit our own economy. *In addition, employing low emission forms of such technologies can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter emissions transported into New Hampshire and also generated in the state, thereby improving air quality and public health, and mitigating against the risks of climate change. It is therefore in the public interest to stimulate investment in low emission renewable energy generation technologies in New England and, in particular, New Hampshire, whether at new or existing facilities.*

## CHAPTER 374-F ELECTRIC UTILITY RESTRUCTURING

### **Section 374-F:3 Restructuring Policy Principles.**

**Subsection VIII.** Environmental Improvement. *Continued environmental protection and long term environmental sustainability should be encouraged.* Increased competition in the electric industry should be implemented in a manner that supports and furthers the goals of environmental improvement.

**Subsection IX.** Renewable Energy Resources. Increased future commitments to renewable energy resources should be consistent with the New Hampshire energy policy as set forth in RSA 378:37 and should be balanced against the impact on generation prices. *Over the long term, increased use of cost-effective renewable energy technologies can have significant environmental, economic, and security benefits.*

**CHAPTER 378 RATES AND CHARGES: Least Cost Energy Planning**

**Section 378:37 New Hampshire Energy Policy.**

*The general court declares that it shall be the energy policy of this state to meet the energy needs of the citizens and businesses of the state at the lowest reasonable cost while providing for the reliability and diversity of energy sources; to maximize the use of cost effective energy efficiency and other demand side resources; and to protect the safety and health of the citizens, the physical environment of the state, and the future supplies of resources, with consideration of the financial stability of the state's utilities.*

**Section 378:39 Commission Evaluation of Plans.**

The commission shall review integrated least-cost resource plans in order to evaluate the consistency of each utility's plan with this subdivision, in an adjudicative proceeding. In deciding whether or not to approve the utility's plan, *the commission shall consider potential environmental, economic, and health-related impacts of each proposed option.* The commission is encouraged to consult with appropriate state and federal agencies, alternative and renewable fuel industries, and other organizations in evaluating such impacts. The commission's approval of a utility's plan shall not be deemed a pre-approval of any actions taken or proposed by the utility in implementing the plan. Where the commission determines the options have equivalent financial costs, equivalent reliability, and equivalent environmental, economic, and health-related impacts, the following order of energy policy priorities shall guide the commission's evaluation:

- I. Energy efficiency and other demand-side management resources;
- II. Renewable energy sources;
- III. All other energy sources.