

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

DE 16-576

**Development of New Alternative Net Metering Tariffs and/or
Other Regulatory Mechanisms and Tariffs for Customer-Generators**

**COMMISSION STAFF'S PARTIALLY ASSENTED-TO MOTION FOR
ADOPTION OF AN INTERIM ALTERNATIVE NET METERING TARIFF**

NOW COMES the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission (Staff) and, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.07, hereby moves that the Commission adopt an alternative net metering tariff to be in effect on an interim basis so as to accommodate an extended procedural schedule to complete the record in this proceeding. This motion has been assented to by the majority of parties in this docket, and Staff is unaware that any party objects to this motion. In support of this motion, Staff states as follows:

1. On or before October 24, 2016, pursuant to the procedural schedule approved by the Commission, initial filings of pre-filed testimony and exhibits were submitted on behalf of the three regulated electric distribution utilities and eight other parties, including renewable energy industry associations, ratepayer organizations, an environmental advocacy group, a municipality, and the Office of Consumer Advocate. On or before November 4, 2016, parties issued more than 50 sets of data requests regarding the initial testimony filings, including over 1,000 separate discovery questions. On November 14, 2016, responses to nearly all of those data requests were issued by the respective parties.

2. On November 15, 2016, the parties and Staff met in a technical session and reached general consensus that an extension to the procedural schedule in this proceeding would facilitate the completion of discovery, submission of detailed rebuttal testimony, evaluation of potential settlement options, and preparation for hearings on the merits. That additional time would

enable the parties and Staff to develop a more extensive and detailed record upon which the Commission may base its final decision in this proceeding.

3. Under RSA 362-A:9, XVII, the Commission is directed to “issue an order initially approving or adopting such alternative [net metering] tariffs, which may be subject to change or adjustment from time to time, within 10 months of the effective date of this paragraph [i.e., May 2, 2016].” The specified ten-month period expires on March 2, 2017.

4. To permit sufficient additional time to develop and complete the record in this proceeding while meeting the statutory directive for the Commission to issue an initial order by March 2, 2017, Staff requests that the Commission adopt and approve an initial alternative net metering tariff (Interim Alternative Tariff) to be in effect on an interim basis beginning on March 2, 2017 and ending when a definitive order is issued that adopts and approves a successor alternative net metering tariff or tariffs, which may include other regulatory mechanisms and tariffs for customer-generators (the Interim Period).

5. Staff and the parties have developed and tentatively agreed upon a revised procedural schedule for this proceeding that contemplates the issuance of such a definitive order by June 2, 2017, and Staff requests that the record in this proceeding be held open pursuant to any such revised procedural schedule as may be approved by the Commission.

6. Staff requests that the Interim Alternative Tariff continue the same terms and conditions of the existing standard tariffs, consistent with RSA 362-A:9 and N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 900, subject to the further provisions described in paragraphs 7 and 8 of this motion.

7. Staff requests that the Interim Alternative Tariff provide that any eligible customer-generator whose qualifying project falls under the interconnecting utility’s allocated share of the 100 megawatt cap set forth in RSA 362-A:9, I and receives a net metering capacity allocation

from the interconnecting utility during the Interim Period shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Interim Alternative Tariff until December 31, 2040, notwithstanding any subsequent revision, modification, adoption, approval, revocation, or repeal of any applicable net metering tariff or other alternative regulatory mechanism applicable to eligible customer-generators. If any utility reaches the applicable cap for net metering as set forth in RSA 362-A:9, I prior to or during the Interim Period, eligible customer-generators whose projects are above that cap may continue to interconnect during the Interim Period subject to the Interim Alternative Tariff, except that such customer-generators shall transition to a new or modified alternative net metering tariff once it is approved or adopted for the utility.

8. Staff requests that the Commission defer final consideration of the factors specified in RSA 362-A:9, XVI until the record in this proceeding has been closed, provided, however, that Commission consideration of “timely recovery of lost revenue by the utility using an automatic rate adjustment mechanism” may include lost revenue resulting from application of the Interim Alternative Tariff to the eligible customer-generators described in paragraph 7 of this motion.

9. Staff requests that the Commission grant this motion and adopt and approve the Interim Alternative Tariff as requested in this partially assented-to motion without further notice or hearing, provided that no objection to this motion is filed within the applicable ten-day time period specified in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.07(e).

WHEREFORE, Commission Staff respectfully requests that the Commission adopt an interim alternative net metering tariff as described in the body of this partially assented-to motion, without further notice or hearing in the absence of any timely-filed objection.

Respectfully,

STAFF OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

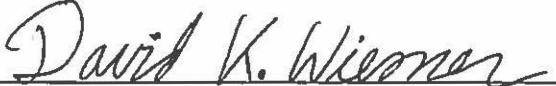
Date: November 23, 2016

By: David K. Wiesner
David K. Wiesner, Esq.
Staff Attorney

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Partially Assented-To Motion for Adoption of an Interim Alternative Net Metering Tariff has this day been served by electronic mail to all persons named on the official service list for this docket.

Dated: November 23, 2016


David K. Wiesner, Esq. (N.H. Bar No. 6919)