

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

DE 17-136

ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES

2018-2020 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 1, 2017, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, and Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (collectively, the Electric Utilities); together with Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities and Northern Utilities, Inc. (collectively, the Gas Utilities) jointly proposed a 2018-2020 Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan (the Plan), which includes energy efficiency programs and related rates, for approval by the Commission. The Plan and subsequent 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 <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Dock/2017/17-136.html>.

Funding for the electric energy efficiency programs contained in the Plan is provided through a portion of the System Benefits Charge (SBC) paid by the Electric Utilities' customers and is supplemented by funds available through the Independent System Operator-New England's Forward Capacity Market and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Funding for the natural gas energy efficiency programs proposed in the Plan is provided through a portion of the Local Distribution Adjustment Clause (LDAC) paid by Liberty Utilities' gas customers and a portion of the Local Delivery Adjustment Clause (LDAC) paid by Northern Utilities' customers. Any

unspent funds from prior program years for both the Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities are carried forward to the following year's budget, including interest. The energy efficiency programs proposed in the Plan are designed to be consistently available to eligible customers across New Hampshire, subject to available budgets.

The Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities seek approval of the Plan in accordance with the Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission in Order 25,932 (August 2, 2016), wherein the Commission approved the implementation of an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) beginning 2018, subject to Commission approval of the specific programs proposed to meet this standard. Consistent with the EERS Settlement Agreement, the Electric Utilities propose changes to the SBC, for effect January 1, 2018, to recover the cost of the 2018 energy efficiency programs contained in the Plan, performance incentives and lost base revenues. The Gas Utilities seek recovery of the 2018 program costs, performance incentives and lost base revenues through the LDACs, which are proposed for effect November 1, 2017, and are currently under review by the Commission in each gas utilities' Cost of Gas proceeding.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 374-F:3, X and whether the proposed Plan programs are reasonable, cost effective, and in the public interest; whether the proposed programs will properly utilize funds from the Energy Efficiency Fund as required by RSA 125-O:23; and whether, pursuant to RSA 374:2, the Electric Utilities' and Gas Utilities' proposed calculations of performance incentives and lost base revenues are just and reasonable and comply with Commission orders. 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 a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on at October 4, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the Plan and the proposed rates, and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the Commission shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than September 25, 2017, on its website, and by serving an electronic copy of this Order of Notice to all parties in Docket No. DE 17-136; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to the Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 2, 2017, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 4, 2017.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-first day of
September, 2017.



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.

Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov	jarvis@unitil.com
al-azad.iqbal@puc.nh.gov	jay.dudley@puc.nh.gov
allen.desbiens@eversource.com	jbesser@necec.org
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov	jharrison@nhcdfa.org
bob.reals@libertyutilities.com	jim.cunningham@puc.nh.gov
carroll@unitil.com	joseph.fontaine@des.nh.gov
christopher.goulding@eversource.com	joseph.swift@eversource.com
craig.wright@des.nh.gov	karen.cramton@puc.nh.gov
cynthia.trottier@libertyutilities.com	kate@nhsea.org
deandra.perruccio@puc.nh.gov	katherine.peters@eversource.com
dhartford@clf.org	kbahny@trcsolutions.com
dlabbe@nhla.org	kerry.holmes@nh.gov
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov	kristi.davie@eversource.com
downesm@unitil.com	laurel.proulx@eversource.com
edward.davis@eversource.com	leszek.stachow@puc.nh.gov
ehawes@acadiacenter.org	lois.jones@eversource.com
elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov	lrichardson@jordaninstitute.org
epler@unitil.com	marc.lemenager@eversource.com
eric.stanley@libertyutilities.com	mark.naylor@puc.nh.gov
f.anne.ross@puc.nh.gov	matthew.fossum@eversource.com
frank.melanson@eversource.com	maureen.karpf@libertyutilities.com
heather.tebbetts@libertyutilities.com	mbirchard@clf.org
issa.ansara@psnh.com	mdean@mdeanlaw.net
james.brennan@oca.nh.gov	

Docket #: 17-136-1 Printed: September 21, 2017

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
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- 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.

michael.sheehan@libertyutilities.com
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
palma@unitil.com
paul.dexter@puc.nh.gov
pradip.chattopadhyay@oca.nh.gov
rclouthier@snhs.org
rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov
rhonda.bisson@eversource.com
robert.bersak@eversource.com
robertbackus05@comcast.net
sanderbois@necec.org
sarah.knowlton@libertyutilities.com
sgeiger@orr-reno.com
snowc@nhec.com
Stephen.Eckberg@puc.nh.gov
Stephen.Hall@libertyutilities.com
steve.frink@puc.nh.gov
steven.elliott@eversource.com
steven.mullen@libertyutilities.com
suzanne.amidon@puc.nh.gov
taylorp@unitil.com
thomas.belair@eversource.com
thomas.belair@eversource.com
tirwin@clf.org
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov
tomas.fuller@eversource.com
trooney@trcsolutions.com
woodsca@nhec.com

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NHPUC 22SEP17#B:01