

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IR 22-042**

**ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES**

**Investigation of Energy Efficiency Planning, Programming, and Evaluation**

**Order Granting Motion for a Commission Attended Technical Session**

**O R D E R N O. 26,682**

**September 12, 2022**

**I. Background and Summary of Filings**

In response to reporting requirements issued through Order No. 26,621 (April 29, 2022) as clarified by Order No. 26,642 (June 21, 2022), on August 1, 2022 and August 31, 2022, the Joint Utilities<sup>1</sup> filed program reports and spreadsheets related to their administration of New Hampshire's ratepayer funded energy efficiency programs in this docket. These filings included spreadsheets relating to benefit-cost testing and performance incentives.

On August 19, 2022, the Commission issued a procedural order requesting user guidance documents, manuals, or spreadsheets to aid the Commission in understanding inputs and the flow of calculations across filed spreadsheets. In absence of existing guidance materials, the Commission expressed interest in receiving an explanation of the hardcoded and embedded formula inputs, as well as formula flow across the different tabs and associated columns in the spreadsheets, along with other supporting source information.

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<sup>1</sup> 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; Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.; Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities; and Northern Utilities, Inc.

On August 29, 2022, in response to the Commission's August 19, 2022 procedural order, the Joint Utilities filed a motion to schedule a Commission attended technical session. In that motion, the Joint Utilities proposed a technical session format to respond to Commission questions, stating that no existing user manual or guidance documents exist and that a technical session would be a more administratively efficient format to respond to specific questions, as opposed to proceeding with written requests and answers. The Joint Utilities requested that such a technical session not be transcribed by a court reporter because they do not intend to present witnesses, there is no testimony to speak to, and this matter is not an adjudicative proceeding.

On September 2, 2022, the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a letter taking no position on the Joint Utilities' August 29, 2022 motion.

The procedural order, motion, and other docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted at: <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2022/22-042.html>.

## **II. Commission Analysis**

As a part of this investigation, the Commission requires clarification of current utility filings, and agrees that a technical session format is likely to be a practical and efficient means to receive responses related to certain types of questions, such as explanations of hardcoded and embedded formula inputs, formula flow across different tabs and columns in spreadsheets, and supporting source information. Therefore, we grant the utilities' request and schedule a commission attended technical session. This technical session will not be recorded or transcribed by a court stenographer.

The Joint Utilities are requested to confer in advance of the technical session and select one representative cost-benefit analysis model, as submitted on August 1, 2022, to be used to explain and demonstrate inputs and the flow of calculations within and across worksheets.

Furthermore, we suspend the September 7, 2022 response deadline contained in the August 19, 2022 procedural order.

On this date, the Commission also issues additional requests for information or answers related to the Joint Utilities' responses to reporting requirements submitted on August 1, 2022 and August 31, 2022, which may also be topics of discussion at the technical session scheduled herein.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

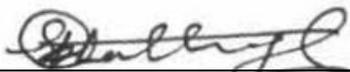
**ORDERED**, the Joint Utilities Motion to Schedule Commission Attended Technical Session is GRANTED; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, a Commission attended technical session is scheduled to occur in this matter on September 29, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the September 7, 2022 response deadline contained in the August 19, 2022 procedural order is SUSPENDED.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twelfth day of September, 2022.

  
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Daniel C. Goldner  
Chairman

  
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Pradip K. Chattopadhyay  
Commissioner

# Service List - Docket Related

**Docket# : 22-042**

**Printed: 9/12/2022**

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