

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DRM 23-083

RULEMAKING

**New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc ch. 700
Rules for Sewer Utilities**

ORDER OF NOTICE

The Commission hereby provides notice of its intent to readopt with amendment N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc ch. 700, Rules for Sewer Utilities to reflect the division of sewer service regulatory responsibilities between the Commission and the Department of Energy (Department), which was created under RSA 12-P:2, I, after consultation between the two agencies. The Department is concurrently proposing to adopt its own rules related to sewer utilities, Chapter En 700. Taken together, the Commission's proposed rules and the Department's proposed En 700 rules maintain the existing extent and scope of state regulation of sewer utilities as is currently reflected in Puc ch. 700.

The Commission is proposing to readopt with amendment, in substantially the same form as the existing rules, rules that define relevant terms used in the rule set, establish tariff requirements and contents, require Commission authorization to provide sewer service, prescribe recordkeeping and record retention requirements, prescribe reporting and accounting standards, and prescribe processes and standards for utility requests for authority to issue securities.

Proposed amendments include the deletion of existing provisions in rules governing customer relations, meter accuracy and testing, equipment and facilities, accident and leak reporting, other reporting, and enforcement procedures which the Department is proposing to adopt as part of the Chapter En 700 in a rulemaking

proceeding that is occurring contemporaneously with this proposed action. Proposed amendments also include edits, updates, clarifying changes, and cross references to the Department's proposed rule set.

A Notice of Rulemaking (Notice), as required by RSA 541-A:6, was published in New Hampshire's Rulemaking Register No. 36, dated September 7, 2023. In addition, a copy of the Notice has been sent to all persons who have made a timely request for advance notice of Commission rulemaking proceedings and regulated water utility companies and shall be posted on the Commission's bulletin board and website. Pursuant to Puc 205.05 and RSA 541-A:11, a public hearing, conducted jointly with the Department of Energy, will be held at the Commission on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in Hearing Room B. Written comments will be accepted through Thursday, October 13, 2023. The Notice as published in New Hampshire's Rulemaking Register and the Commission's initial proposal for rulemaking are posted to the Commission's website <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2023/23-083.html>, or copies may be obtained from the Commission as set forth in the Notice.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Public Hearing, pursuant to RSA 541-A:11, to hear comment on the Commission's proposal to readopt with amendment N.H. Code Admin. R. Puc ch. 700 will be held at 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire in Hearing Room B, on October 4, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., and that the deadline for submission of materials in writing or by e-mail shall be October 13, 2023, as set forth in the Notice; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, a copy of this Order of Notice shall be posted on the Commission's website and bulletin board within two business days of this order.

So ordered, this eleventh day of September, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel C. Goldner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Department of Energy, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-3670; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made no later than one week prior to the scheduled event.

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 23-082

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