

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 19-104

EVERSOURCE ENERGY

Petition for Clean Innovation Community Solar Pilot Proposal

ORDER OF NOTICE

On May 30, 2019, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a petition for approval of its proposed “Clean Innovation Community Solar” pilot program for the benefit of low and moderate income (LMI) customers. The proposed pilot program is intended to comply with a Commission directive in Order No. 26,029 (June 23, 2017), issued in the alternative net metering tariff development proceeding, Docket DE 16-576. In that order, the Commission directed that each regulated electric distribution utility develop for Commission consideration “a pilot program that would use monetary bill credits to make the benefits of solar [distributed generation] system ownership available to low and moderate income customers whose circumstances would otherwise not allow them to participate in a net-metered renewable energy project.” Order No. 26,029 at 63.

The Petition 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 <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2019/19-104.html>.

Eversource’s proposed “Clean Innovation Community Solar” pilot program would use a competitive request for proposals (RFP) process to solicit solar developers willing to build up to a total of 20 megawatts of solar generation projects benefitting LMI customers. Solar facilities with total peak generating capacity of more than 100 kW and less than 5.0 MW would be eligible to participate. The benefits to LMI customers would come in the form of monetary bill credits to

customers within a specified zip code, or zip codes, who are receiving benefits through the Electric Assistance Program. By having Eversource identify and manage the customers within the group for that project, it would relieve the developer of the burden of recruiting eligible LMI customers to participate in a group net metering arrangement. Eversource would also calculate and provide monetary credits on the electric bills of those customers. The amount of the credit to those customers would be calculated based upon a deduction from the then-prevailing rate applied to surplus generation that would otherwise be paid to the project owner or group host under the net metering provisions of Eversource's tariff.

Eversource's model for scoring respondents to the RFP also includes enhancements for projects showing certain levels of community engagement. In addition, the proposed pilot program would include a plan for evaluation, measurement and verification (EM&V) to assure that Eversource will be able to capture the information necessary to assess the benefits of the program during the pilot period.

Eversource estimates that the costs to develop and implement the proposed pilot program would total approximately \$5,000,000 over the 10-year term of the pilot, including an estimated \$1,100,000 for billing system modifications. Eversource proposes to recover those costs through the "Distribution Rate Adjustment Mechanism" proposed in its pending base distribution rate case. In addition, Eversource proposes to recover payments for surplus generation compensated in the program through the same mechanism that it recovers other net metering credits and payments. Those credits and payments are currently treated by Eversource as energy purchases and recovered through its default energy service charge.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether Eversource's proposed pilot program is consistent with the Commission's directive in Order No. 26,029; whether the proposed pilot

program will provide significant benefits to LMI customers; whether the estimated costs of the proposed pilot program are prudent and reasonable; and whether Eversource's proposal to recover those costs is just and reasonable under RSA 378:7. 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 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on July 11, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition 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, Eversource, the Staff of the Commission, the Office of the Consumer Advocate, and any Intervenors shall hold a Technical Session to review the petition; and it is

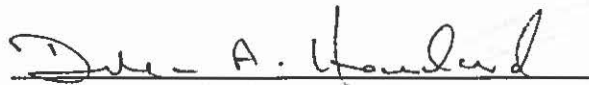
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than June 27, 2019, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 8, 2019; 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 Eversource on or before July 8, 2019, 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. Rules Puc 203.17; and it is

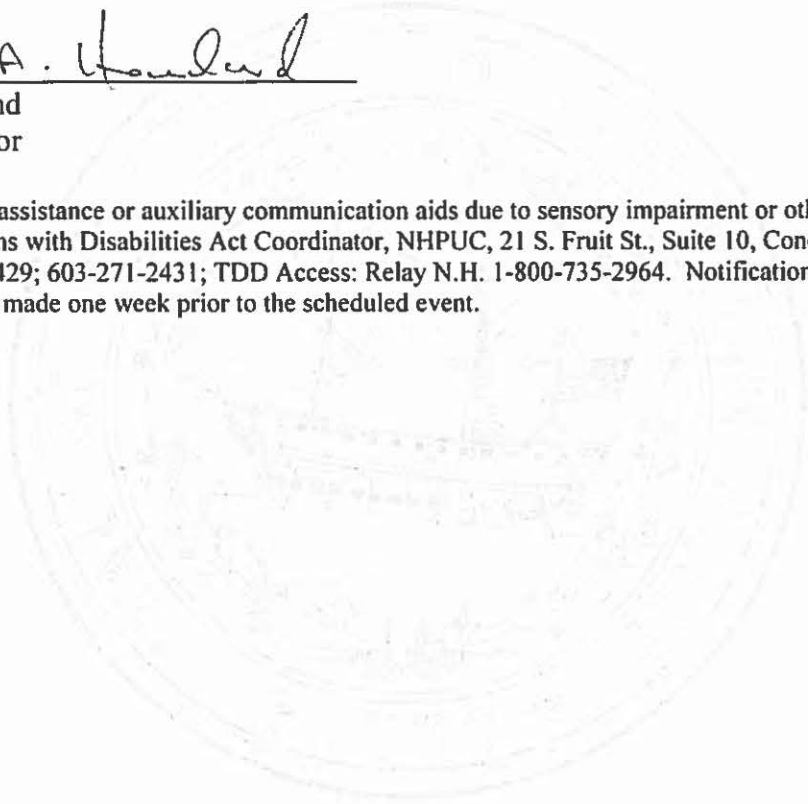
FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before July 11, 2019.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fourteenth day of June, 2019.



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.



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