

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-037

ELECTRIC RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD

Adjustment to Renewable Portfolio Standard Class III Requirements

ORDER OF NOTICE

The Commission has determined to consider whether New Hampshire electricity providers may not be able to procure sufficient renewable energy certificates (RECs) to comply with New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements under RSA chapter 362-F for the 2020 compliance year. The Commission will evaluate whether an adjustment should be made to the Class III (Existing Biomass/Methane) requirement for 2020. If the Commission makes no change, the Class III RPS requirement will be 8.0 percent of retail sales for 2020.

Pursuant to statute, the Commission is authorized to adjust Class III RPS requirements as necessary and consistent with the purposes of RSA chapter 362-F. The law allows the Commission, after notice and hearing, to modify Class III requirements "such that the requirements are equal to an amount between 85 percent and 95 percent of the reasonably expected potential annual output of available eligible sources after taking into account demand from similar programs in other states." RSA 362-F:4, VI.

Potentially reduced production from a number of Class III certified biomass facilities, combined with uncertain demand and market dynamics on the regional scale, call into question the ability of electricity providers to procure sufficient New Hampshire Class III RECs to satisfy the Class III RPS requirement for compliance year 2020.

Based on that market uncertainty, the Commission has determined that a potential adjustment to the Class III RPS requirement for the 2020 compliance year should be considered. Accordingly, the Commission will hold a public comment hearing on March 29, 2021, at 1:30p.m., to gather information regarding the 2020 annual electric generation output of certified Class III eligible sources, the regional market demand for the RECs produced by those sources, and the corresponding availability of New Hampshire Class III RECs to meet the Class III RPS requirement for compliance year 2020.

This order of notice raises, inter alia, issues related to whether it is appropriate and reasonable for the Commission to adjust RPS Class III requirements for compliance year 2020, pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, VI, and, if so, how that adjustment should be calculated. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

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 www.puc.nh.gov.

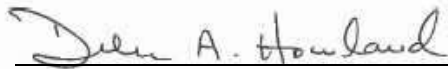
Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that, consistent with Governor Christopher T. Sununu's Emergency Order #12, the Commission will hold a web-enabled public comment hearing on March 29, 2021 at 1:30p.m., for the purpose of seeking the comments of interested stakeholders on the Class III RPS requirement and New Hampshire Class III REC availability for compliance year 2020. Members of the public who wish to access the public comment hearing may do so [by clicking here](#). **If you have any difficulty obtaining access to this remote event, please notify the Commission by calling (603) 271-2431 as soon as possible.** Additional instructions regarding

the conduct of the remote hearing will be posted prior to the hearing on the Commission's website at www.puc.nh.gov; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, the Executive Director shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than one business day after the date of issue and by electronic mail to the electric distribution utilities and registered competitive electric power suppliers.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fifth day of March, 2021.



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 - Docket Related

Docket#: 21-037

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