

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 15-271

**EXAMINATION OF ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITY
INTERCONNECTION AND QUEUE MANAGEMENT PROCESSES
FOR NET-METERED CUSTOMER GENERATORS**

**Order *Nisi* Approving Modification of Customer Good Standing Requirement
Under Net Metering Program Capacity Allocation Procedures**

ORDER NO. 25,923

July 6, 2016

In this order *nisi*, the Commission grants the request of Public Service Company of New Hampshire, d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to delete the “customer in good standing” condition included in the Net Metering Program Capacity Allocation Procedures (Procedures), approved by the Commission in Order No. 25,874 (March 22, 2016), and subsequently implemented by Eversource and the two other regulated electric distribution utilities, and to replace this condition with a requirement that the customer or prospective customer applying for a net metering program capacity allocation must be “current on all payments owed to the utility as of the date upon which the customer seeks to enroll as a net metered customer.”

On June 21, 2016, Eversource filed a request and recommendation regarding the “customer in good standing” requirement included in the Procedures, noting that the Procedures as approved, adopted, and implemented, preclude a customer from obtaining a net metering program capacity allocation if the customer is not “in good standing with the interconnecting utility (e.g., the customer must not have been issued any disconnect notices during the preceding 12 months).” Eversource argued that this customer status condition results in the unintended consequence of excluding from participation in net metering any customers whose accounts may

be current but who had late payments anytime within the past one-year period. Those customers cannot achieve “good standing” status, but instead have to await the passage of time before becoming eligible to obtain an allocation. Eversource characterized this result as “frustrating and confusing for customers.”

Eversource recommended that the “customer in good standing” requirement be removed from the Procedures and replaced with a condition that the “Applicant must be an existing or prospective customer of the interconnecting utility, and current on all payments owed to the utility as of the date upon which the customer seeks to enroll as a net metered customer.”

Eversource stated that upon authorization of the change, it will initiate contacts with any of its customers who had previously been denied admission to the net metering queue on the basis of payment history, to determine whether the customers have a continuing interest in obtaining a capacity allocation for the net metering program.

Eversource represented that Liberty Utilities and Unitil Energy Systems both agree with the proposed change. Staff filed a memorandum on June 27, 2016, recommending that the Commission approve the changes to the Procedures as proposed by Eversource.

We have reviewed Eversource’s request and Staff’s memorandum, and we find that the proposed changes to the Procedures are reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances. We therefore approve the requested modifications to the Procedures, pursuant to our authority under RSA 365:28. We issue our decision on a *nisi* basis to provide any interested person the opportunity to submit comments on Eversource’s request and recommendation or to request a hearing.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, that subject to the effective date below, the Eversource Energy, Liberty Utilities, and Unitil Energy Systems Net Metering Program Capacity Allocation Procedures shall be revised to delete all instances therein of the sentence or phrase reading “[t]he Applicant must be a customer in good standing with the interconnecting utility (e.g., the customer must not have been issued any disconnect notices during the preceding 12 months),” and to replace said deleted sentence or phrase with a new sentence or phrase reading “[t]he Applicant must be an existing or prospective customer of the interconnecting utility, and current on all payments owed to the utility as of the date upon which the customer seeks to enroll as a net metered customer;” and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Eversource shall cause this Order *Nisi* to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation, such publication to be no later than July 15, 2016, and to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 20, 2016; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this Order *Nisi* be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than July 19, 2016, for the Commission’s consideration; and it is

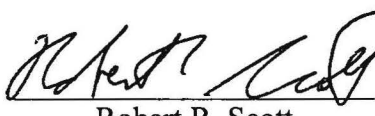
FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than July 21, 2016; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order *Nisi* shall be effective on July 22, 2016, unless Eversource fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

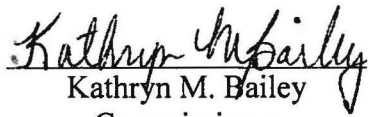
By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this sixth day of July,
2016.



Martin P. Honigberg
Chairman

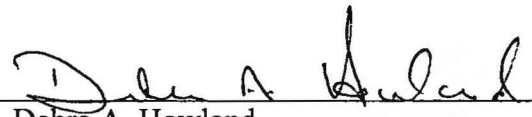


Robert R. Scott
Commissioner



Kathryn M. Bailey
Commissioner

Attested by:



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director