STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DE 16-576

Development of New Alternative Net Metering Tariffs and/or Other Regulatory Mechanisms and Tariffs for Customer-Generators

Order *Nisi* Extending Specified Completion Date for Value of Distributed Energy Resources Study

<u>ORDER NO. 26,456</u>

February 11, 2021

In this Order, the Commission extends the specified date for completion of the Value of Distributed Energy Resources Study (VDER Study). This order is being issued on a *nisi* basis to ensure that all interested persons receive notice of the decision and have the opportunity to submit comments or request a hearing before the order becomes effective.

In Order No. 26,316 (December 18, 2019), the Commission specified that the VDER Study should be completed by the end of the second calendar quarter of 2021, stating that:

Consistent with Staff's general timeframe, we direct Staff to issue a request for proposals in the first quarter of 2020 and engage a consultant to perform the VDER Study, with a study report and findings delivered by the end of the second quarter of 2021.

Order No. 26,316 at 23. On February 10, 2021, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a memorandum recommending that Order No. 26,316 be modified to extend the completion date for the VDER Study from the end of the second quarter of 2021 until the end of the first quarter of 2022. According to Staff, as a result of unavoidable delays experienced in the competitive solicitation process to engage a consultant to perform the VDER Study, through Request for Proposals #2020-001, that specified study completion date is no longer realistic and should be extended until the end of the first quarter of 2022 (i.e., March 31, 2022). Staff did not anticipate that there would be any opposition to that proposed modification.

Order No. 26,316, Staff's memorandum, and other docket filings, except for any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted at: http://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2016/16-576.html.

We find that there is good reason to extend the specified completion date for the VDER Study until March 31, 2022, as recommended by Staff. Under RSA 365:28, the Commission has the authority to modify any order made by it. We modify Order No. 26,316 to extend the study completion date by issuing this Order on a *nisi* basis to ensure that all interested persons receive notice of the decision and have the opportunity to submit comments or request a hearing before this order becomes effective.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Order No. 26,316 is modified to extend the specified completion date for the VDER Study from the end of the second calendar quarter of 2021 until the end of the first calendar quarter of 2022 on March 31, 2022; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Executive Director of the Commission shall cause a copy of this order *nisi* to be published on the Commission's website within one business day; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons desiring to respond to this order *nisi* are 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 February 19, 2021, 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 February 24, 2021; and it is

DE 16-576 - 3 -

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order *nisi* shall be effective on February 26, 2021, unless 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 eleventh day of February, 2021.

Dianne Martin Chairwoman

athryn M. Bailey Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland Executive Director DE 16-576 - 4 -

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 16-576

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DE 16-576 - 5 -

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DE 16-576 - 6 -

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DE 16-576 - 7 -

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