

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

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DATE: February 27, 2017

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

gm

FROM: Elizabeth R. Nixon, Utility Analyst – Electric Division

SUBJECT: Docket No. DE 16-576
Alternative Net Metering Tariffs for Customer-Generators
Staff Recommendation for Proposed Tariff Amendments Regarding
Interim Alternative Net Metering Tariff

TO: Martin P. Honigberg, Chairman
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner
Kathryn M. Bailey, Commissioner
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director

CC: Tom Frantz, Director – Electric Division
Amanda Noonan, Director – Consumer Services & External Affairs
Karen Cramton, Director – Sustainable Energy Division
Les Stachow, Assistant Director – Electric Division
David Wiesner, Staff Attorney



Summary

On December 21, 2016, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued Order No. 25,972, which granted a motion filed by Commission Staff (Staff) to approve an initial alternative net metering tariff, effective for an interim period beginning on March 2, 2017, and intended to continue current provisions for net metering of eligible customer-generators. The Commission approved the interim alternative net metering tariff and ordered Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty), Public Service Company of New Hampshire, d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource), and Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (Unitil), to file by January 20, 2017 revised tariff pages pursuant to Puc 1603 to implement the interim alternative tariff. Staff recommends that the Commission allow Liberty's, Eversource's, and Unitil's proposed tariff amendments, which reference and effectively incorporate the interim alternative net metering tariff per Order No. 25,972, to go into effect as of the dates stated in such revised tariff pages.

Background

On December 21, 2016, the Commission issued Order No. 25,972 in Docket DE 16-576, which granted a motion filed by Staff to approve an initial alternative net metering tariff, effective for an interim period beginning on March 2, 2017. The interim alternative net metering tariff effectively continues the terms and conditions of the current net metering

tariffs consistent with RSA 362-A:9 and Puc 900 during the specified interim period. The Commission approved the interim alternative net metering tariff and ordered Liberty, Eversource, and Unitil to file revised tariff pages pursuant to Puc 1603 by January 20, 2017.

Liberty, Eversource, and Unitil each filed revised tariffs per Order No. 25,972, following discussions with Staff regarding the need for their tariffs to reference the terms and conditions of the interim alternative net metering tariff in Order No. 25,972. On January 10, 2017, Eversource filed a letter stating that the current tariff covers the provisions of the Order and later filed a revised tariff on January 27, 2017, referring to the Order and listing the commencement date of the interim alternative tariff. On January 12, 2017, Liberty filed a proposed tariff, which it subsequently revised on January 19, 2017 and February 15, 2017. On January 27, 2017, Unitil filed a proposed tariff intended to comply with the Order. Unitil's proposed tariff also reflects changes that were proposed and suspended under Docket DE 16-384 to change its applicability to net metered facilities that are 1 megawatt or less, rather than 25 kilowatts or less. Unitil requested that this filing supersede the revised tariff filing in Docket DE 16-384, its general rate case.

Because Eversource and Unitil each filed the most recent proposed tariff after the deadline specified in the Order, each requested a waiver of that deadline to the extent necessary. Liberty did not make an explicit waiver request, but since Liberty filed the latest revision after January 20, 2017, Liberty would be similar to the other utilities regarding a waiver of the deadline to the extent necessary. The proposed new tariff provisions would not take effect in substance until March 2, 2017; therefore, the utilities believe that no party or person would be prejudiced by the approval of such a waiver.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission allow Liberty's, Eversource's, and Unitil's proposed tariff amendments, which incorporate the interim alternative net metering tariff approved in Order No. 25, 972, to go into effect as of the dates specified in such revised tariff pages. To the extent necessary, Staff recommends that the compliance filing deadline be waived, as the interim alternative net metering tariff provisions will not take substantive effect until March 2, 2017. In addition, Staff recommends that the proposed change to Unitil's tariff regarding the applicability of the net metering provisions to facilities of 1 MW or less also be approved.

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