

June 7, 2016

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION - ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES

PETITION TO INTERVENE: DE 16-576

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

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), pursuant to RSA 541-A:32,1(b) and New Hampshire Administrative Rule PUC 203.17, respectfully petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for intervention as a full party in the above-captioned proceeding. In support of this petition, TNC states as follows:

1. TNC has an interest in the issues cited by the Commission in its May 19, 2016 Order of Notice regarding development and adoption of net metering tariffs and how such tariffs may affect the continued development of distributed renewable resources within the State consistent with the goals of the 2014 State Energy Strategy and the Renewable Portfolio Standard.
2. TNC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to conservation for the benefit of people and nature. TNC addresses the most urgent conservation challenges at the largest scale by pursuing collaborative, pragmatic, science- and market-based solutions. Our vision is to leave a sustainable world for future generations. TNC’s on-the-ground conservation work is carried out in all 50 states and in 69 countries around the world with the support of approximately one million members. We are working with communities and a wide variety of public and private partners across New Hampshire to establish resilient, connected landscapes; foster healthy rivers and freshwater systems; build sustainable fisheries; restore estuarine health; and create a clean energy future for New Hampshire.
3. For years, TNC has worked to advance clean and renewable energy policies in New Hampshire and across the nation as a way to reduce carbon emissions and protect habitats affected by the generation, transmission and distribution of electric power. TNC has members throughout the state and region who will be directly affected by the outcome of this proceeding.

4. TNC has been an active participant over the years in the development of New Hampshire's energy policies, including the *New Hampshire 10-Year State Energy Strategy* [NH OEP, 2014], *NH Climate Change Action Plan* [NH DES, 2009], the Renewable Portfolio Standard (NH RSA 362-F), the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (NH RSA 125-O:20-29), among others. TNC brings extensive experience and resources regarding energy projects and markets in New Hampshire, across the country, as well as internationally.

5. TNC believes that to meet greater energy demand while also ensuring the long-term health of our lands, waters, and the biodiversity they support, there must be a fundamental shift in the region's energy strategies, away from traditional fossil based generation to clean and renewable distributed energy facilities. Given the importance of bringing new sources of renewable energy online to address the growing risks and impacts of climate change, the significant environmental challenge is to minimize the impacts of renewable energy development on the landscape. TNC supports increased development of distributed generation for the purposes of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, empowering consumers of electric power for additional choice in the marketplace, reducing the need for costly, intrusive and environmentally impactful large infrastructure projects.

6. The Conservancy has approximately 10,000 supporters in New Hampshire, including in the service territories of Unitil Energy Systems, Eversource Energy and Liberty Utilities. TNC has members who reside in service territories subject to this docket who own distributed generation, including rooftop solar installations, and members who hope to install such installations in the future. TNC and our members are concerned about, and are directly affected by the need for reliable, affordable and clean energy resources that will have minimal environmental impact. TNC and our members have a substantial interest in ensuring reasonable compensation mechanisms are in place to support distributed energy resources.

7. TNC was actively involved in the legislative process leading to the passage of HB 1116, relative to net energy metering, which mandated initiation of the current docket. The Purpose Statement of HB 1116 states that "it is in the public interest to continue to provide reasonable opportunities for electric customers to invest in and interconnect customer-generator facilities and receive fair compensation for such locally produced power while ensuring costs and benefits are fairly and transparently allocated

among all customers. The general court continues to promote a balanced energy policy that supports economic growth and promotes energy diversity, independence, reliability, efficiency, regulatory predictability, **environmental benefits**, and a modern and flexible electric grid that provides benefits for all ratepayers.”

8. TNC’s intervention in this docket would be in the interests of justice and would not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings. If granted intervention status, TNC will abide by the Commission’s rules and procedural schedule developed in this docket and make every effort to work collaboratively with the Staff and other parties.

WHEREFORE, TNC respectfully requests that this Honorable Commission grant this Petition and allow TNC to intervene as a full party in this proceeding, and to grant such other relief as the Commission finds just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

The Nature Conservancy



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Dated: June 7, 2016

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Petition to Intervene has on this 7th day of June 2016 has been sent by email to all members on the service list in Docket No DE 16-576, one hard copy to the Office of Consumer Advocate, and seven hard copies to the Commission.



Jim O'Brien
Director of External Affairs
The Nature Conservancy

Dated: June 7, 2016