

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 19-197

ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS UTILITIES

Development of a Statewide, Multi-Use Online Energy Data Platform

**Order on Proposed Request for Proposal concerning Integration of Utility Back-
End Software with the Data Platform**

ORDER NO. 26,842

June 8, 2023

In this order the Commission authorizes the issuance of a request for proposals for the development of software in order to integrate utility back-end processes with the proposed data platform. The Commission highlights its concerns and reminds the parties of the need to keep these efforts on the utility back-end processes consistent with the development of the Data Platform.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 5, 2023, the parties submitted a request for proposals (RFP) to the Commission for review. The submission was made pursuant to the Commission's Order No 26,589 (March 2, 2022). That order required the parties to "submit the RFP for the consultant to assist with developing software for the integration of the utility back-end and utility application programming interface (API) for the Data Platform to the Commission for review and approval prior to issuance." *Id.* at 16. The Commission authorized issuance of the RFP in Order No. 26,776 (February 22, 2023) but made several suggestions for revisions to improve the RFP. On May 19, 2023 the parties submitted a revised RFP for Commission review.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission thanks the parties for their efforts in coordinating and presenting this revised RFP for review. The parties claim that the proposed revisions to the RFP address the Commission's recommendations in Order No. 26,776. The parties also clarified that this RFP relates solely to the development of each of the three utilities' back-end software to interface with and transmit data to the data platform. The parties emphasized that this work does not involve the software developed to implement the data platform which will require a separate RFP.

We acknowledge that the RFP revisions are partially responsive to our earlier recommendations. While we will allow the RFP to go forward, we note that there is still a lack of coherence with three separate proposals rather than a single coherent proposal; no significant details were furnished as to governance by NHGC; and there is a lack of predetermined goals.

The Commission recognizes that each utility has its own unique software. However, we encourage the parties to consciously tailor the back-end software development to the needs of a state-wide data platform that ultimately gets built with the Commission's approval. *See* RSA 378:51, III.¹ . How the software development with the individual utility back-end systems will inform the development efforts for the state-wide data sharing hub, is important to understand going forward.

The utilities provided a suggested workflow chart for the timing of various deliverables at the status conference on October 6, 2022. The Commission approved that high level Gantt Chart in Order No. 26,701 (October 11, 2022). We ask that the parties update the chart to show the status of the various development tasks with

¹ The department of energy shall defer the implementation of the statewide, multi-use, online energy data platform pursuant to paragraph I if the commission determines that the cost of such platform to be recovered from customers is unreasonable and not in the public interest.

further detail on or before July 31, 2023. Later in this process, when the Commission fulfils its statutory obligation to consider the cost of the data platform development, the Commission will need to consider all elements needed to implement the entire data platform solution. At that time, it will be important to consider whether proposals for both the utility back-end integration and the data platform offer a cost-effective integrated solution.

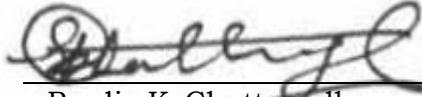
Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the parties may proceed with issuance of the RFP and selection of a qualified bidder.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighth day of June, 2023.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 19-197

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