

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 22-060

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES

**Consideration of Changes to the Current Net Metering Tariff Structure, Including
Compensation of Customer-Generators**

Prehearing Order

ORDER NO. 26,769

February 1, 2023

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pursuant to an order commencing an adjudicative proceeding (Initial Order) issued on September 20, 2022, the Commission held a prehearing conference on January 5, 2023. The Initial Order designated the three regulated New Hampshire electric distribution utilities operating in New Hampshire, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource), Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (Unitil), and Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty), as mandatory parties to the docket. The Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a letter indicating its participation in this docket on September 21, 2022. On October 31, 2022, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed a Final Report of Dunskey Energy Consulting on the Value of Distributed Energy Resources (VDER) Study.

The following parties requested intervention in the proceeding:

Community Power Coalition
Clean Energy New Hampshire
Standard Power of America
Conservation Law Foundation
Granite State Hydro
Walmart Inc.
IBEW local 490
Consumer Energy Alliance

Colonial Power Group, Inc.

II. INTERVENTION REQUESTS

The standard for intervention is found at N.H. Code of Admin. R. Puc 203.17, which incorporates the standard found in, RSA 541-A:32. Under RSA 541-A:32, there are two standards for ruling on petitions for intervention, mandatory and permissive. We will review the pending intervention requests under the mandatory intervention standard which requires:

1. timeliness;
2. a sufficient showing that the petitioner has rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests that may be affected by the proceeding or is entitled to intervene by law; and
3. granting intervention will not impair the interests of justice or the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding.

Each of the nine parties seeking intervention, listed above, are either ratepayers, potential ratepayers, or organizations with members comprising these groups. As a result, we find that they meet the mandatory test for intervention and we grant them party status in this docket. In order to promote the orderly and prompt conduct of this proceeding, we ask that the intervenors attempt wherever possible to combine and submit joint testimony, comments and discovery.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

On August 21, 2020, the Commission Staff (now DOE staff) filed the Locational Value of Distributed Generation (LVDG) Study in Docket No. DE 16-576. The Initial Order stated that the Commission intended to take administrative notice of the LVDG Study, pursuant to New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Puc 203.27. The Initial Order provided that any party objecting to administrative notice of the LVDG Study could do so pursuant to Puc 203.27(c) by filing a written objection on or before the prehearing conference. No party filed a written objection and no party objected at

the prehearing conference. Accordingly, the Commission takes administrative notice in this docket of the LVDG Study filed in Docket No. DE 16-576.

IV. PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

On January 19, 2023, Liberty Utilities, Inc. filed a recommended procedural schedule agreed upon by the following parties: the DOE, the OCA, Conservation Law Foundation, Clean Energy NH, Walmart, IBEW Local 490, Colonial Power Group, Granite State Hydropower, Consumer Energy Alliance, Community Power Coalition of NH, Eversource, Unitil, and Liberty. According to Liberty, no party objected to the proposed schedule.

Stakeholder Session	February 10, 2023, 9:00 -1:00
Stakeholder Session	March 16, 2023, 9:00 -1:00
Stakeholder Session	April 20, 2023, 9:00 -1:00
Utility Testimony (with proposed tariff changes)	August 11, 2023
Data Requests	August 24, 2023
Data Responses	September 8, 2023
Technical Session	September 22, 2023, 9:00 -1:00
Data Requests	September 28, 2023
Data Responses	October 12, 2023
Technical Session	October 19, 2023, 9:00 -1:00
Intervenor testimony (responding to utility filing, and making separate proposals)	November 3, 2023
Data Requests	November 15, 2023
Data Responses	December 5, 2023
Technical Session	December 21, 2023, 9:00 -1:00
Settlement Conference	January 11, 2024, 9:00 -1:00
Rebuttal Testimony	January 24, 2024
Data Requests	February 1, 2024
Data Responses	February 16, 2024
Technical Session	February 29, 2024, 9:00 -1:00
Hearing	Week of March 11, 2024

The Commission finds the proposed procedural schedule reasonable and approves it with the exception that the Commission will schedule a status conference on March 16, 2023 to discuss with the parties potential approaches to designing net metering tariffs based on guidance found in the VDER report.


Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

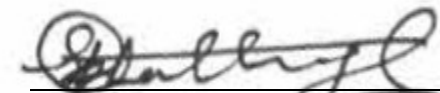
ORDERED, that the requested interventions are GRANTED as discussed herein, with the understanding that the intervenors with similar positions shall attempt to combine their participation in this docket; and it is

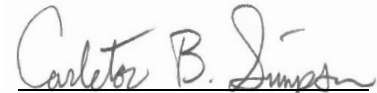
FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission takes administrative notice of the Locational Value of Distributed Generation Study filed on August 21, 2020, in Docket No. DE 16-576; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the proposed procedural schedule is APPROVED, except that the stakeholder session proposed on March 16, 2023, will be replaced with a Status Conference to allow Commission participation.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this first day of February 2023.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner


Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-060

Printed: 2/1/2023

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