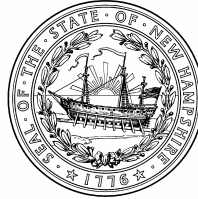


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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



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Wednesday, February 11, 2009

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**PUC AND HOMELAND SECURITY SEEK PUBLIC COMMENT  
ON DECEMBER 2008 ICE STORM**

**CONCORD, N.H.** - The N.H. Public Utilities Commission and the N.H. Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management announced today opportunities for public comment to assist in the review of utility and governmental response to the December 2008 ice storm. The PUC and HSEM will jointly conduct a series of evening public statement hearings during March and April to hear from residential and business customers. The times and locations of all public hearings will be posted shortly.

The PUC is focusing its after action review on the efforts of each of New Hampshire's electric utility companies regarding preparation and response to the power outages prior to, during and following the December ice storm. To the extent that telephone and water customers were affected by the ice storm or by power outages, the review will also consider telecommunications and water company preparedness and response.

The Division of Homeland Security is focusing its after action review on emergency response operations, procedures and communications. This includes state and federal support for shelters and local emergency responders.

Comment on utility company and governmental response issues may also be submitted through the PUC's website at [www.puc.nh.gov](http://www.puc.nh.gov). A special portal has been created that asks for responses to a set of particular questions and provides for general comment. In addition to the opportunity to file comments electronically, comments may be submitted in writing to Debra A. Howland, Executive Director, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, NH 03301.

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In their review, HSEM and the PUC will address, among other things, the following: (1) adequacy of existing storm response and emergency plans; (2) forecasting and pre-storm preparations; (3) management of restoration efforts; (4) inter-company communications and cooperation; (5) use and allocation of mutual aid crews; (6) communications with local and state public safety officials; (7) internal company communications; (8) dissemination of information to the public; (9) transmission maintenance and outage scheduling; (10) operations and management practices, including inspections and vegetation management; and (11) identification of company practices that require improvement.

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