

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 08-120

ORDER OF NOTICE

On October 7, 2008 Granite State Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Public Service Company of New Hampshire and Unitil Energy Systems, Inc (collectively the "Utilities") filed a joint proposal for "Core" energy efficiency programs to be made available in 2009. The Core energy efficiency programs are funded through the systems benefit charge paid by ratepayers and authorized by RSA 374-F:3,VI. In this filing, the Utilities seek to continue with certain modifications, the statewide programs previously approved by the Commission in Docket No. DE 07-106, Order No. 24,815 (December 28, 2007) and implemented during calendar year 2008.

The petition details the 2009 programs, performance targets, and budgets for each of the Utilities. The filing contains a proposal for the treatment of forward capacity payments made by the Independent System Operator-New England (ISO-NE) for the demand reduction effects of the Core energy efficiency programs. In this filing, the Utilities state that the Commission may have access to additional funding to support expanded Core energy efficiency program activities through the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund (GGERF) (RSA 125-O:23). The Utilities also state that they may be able to enhance the effectiveness and scope of the funding available for renewable energy from the Renewable Energy Portfolios Standard Law (RSA 362-F) through a combined approach. The filing also includes a new proposal to extend weatherization assistance to eligible households on a fuel-blind basis and discusses the increasing importance of monitoring and verification.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the proposed allocation of forward capacity payments is reasonable; whether the Commission should allocate monies from the GGERF funds to expand the Core energy efficiency programs; whether it is reasonable to conduct weatherization on a fuel-blind basis; whether proposed monitoring and evaluation programs are adequate; whether current shareholder incentive mechanisms remain appropriate; and whether the proposed energy efficiency programs are consistent with the relevant provision of the Electric Industry Restructuring Act (RSA 374-F:3,X), the requirements of Electric Utility Restructuring—Energy Efficiency programs, (85 NH PUC 684, Order No. 23,574 (2000)) relative to cost-effectiveness and the need for program consistency, and the public interest. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 24, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, the Utilities, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow the Utilities to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the Commission shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 13, 2008, in a newspaper with general circulation in

those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before October 24, 2008; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to the Utilities and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 21, 2008, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 24, 2008.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this ninth day of October, 2008.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.