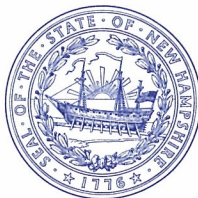


THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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December 1, 2008

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301



Re: Docket No. DE 06-061
Investigation into Energy Policy Act 2005 Standards
Report Regarding Advanced Metering Infrastructure and Time of Use Rates

Dear Ms. Howland:

On September 15, 2008, the Commission issued Order No. 24,893 in the above-captioned docket. Order No. 24,893 contained a directive by the Commission for Staff to meet with the utilities to "facilitate the evaluation and implementation of advanced metering infrastructure and time of use rates in New Hampshire." Order No. 24,893, slip op. at 7. The Order further required the Staff to file a status report with the Commission by December 1, 2008. This letter constitutes Staff's status report.

Staff has held meetings with Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) and National Grid regarding advanced metering infrastructure. PSNH and National Grid have provided Staff with an overview of the various technologies that support advanced metering, many of which are being tested on a pilot basis to assess whether they perform as represented by the meter manufacturers and how certain technologies perform based on variations in factors such as customer density, service area terrain, etc. Connecticut Light & Power, an affiliate of PSNH, currently plans to conduct a pilot for both residential and commercial and industrial customers to test the performance of advanced meters and associated time-of-use rates in achieving energy savings during the peak summer months of 2009. Staff believes that the results of this pilot program will help inform the Commission on the merits of the tested metering technology and on the responsiveness of the customers in the test groups to the various time-of-use rate designs to be implemented in the pilot.

National Grid presented an overview describing its values and principles in its evaluation of smart grid technology, including advanced metering technology. National Grid is

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considering a variety of potential time-of-use rate options that could be included in a proposed pilot project to be tested by National Grid in 2009 in certain New Hampshire communities. National Grid has not completed its pilot design, and will continue to work with Staff regarding the scope of its pilot test implementation.

Staff plans similar discussions with Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (Unitil) to assess Unitil's experience with its recent installation of advanced metering technology.

Please let me know if the Commission has any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne G. Amidon', with a stylized flourish extending to the left.

Suzanne G. Amidon
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner

Service List