

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

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

**Rebate of Excess Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Allowance
Auction Proceeds to all Electric Ratepayers**

DE 14-048

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

In 2013, the New Hampshire Legislature enacted Chapter 269 (HB 306) amending RSA 125-O, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) statute effective January 1, 2014. Pursuant to the RGGI statute, the State of New Hampshire participates in the quarterly auction of budget allowances that comprise the state's annual allocation for carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Under current law, any proceeds of any auction in excess of one dollar received from each RGGI allowance shall be rebated "to all default service electric ratepayers in the state on a per-kilowatt-hour basis, in a timely manner to be determined by the commission." New Hampshire Laws 2012, Chapter 281. The Commission determined the allocation of the excess funds in Docket No. DE 12-362 (Order No. 25,471 (March 8, 2013)). It should be noted that "default service electric ratepayers" means those ratepayers who take energy service from an electric distribution company rather than from competitive supply options or through self-supply.

The 2013 legislation amended the section of the law regarding rebates to customers. Effective January 1, 2014, all amounts in excess of one dollar "shall be rebated to all retail electric ratepayers in the state on a per-kilowatt-hour basis, in a timely manner to be determined by the commission." RSA 125-O:23, II. The words "all retail electric ratepayers" includes all

of electric distribution utilities or municipal power utilities regardless of the source of their energy supply service.

RGGI auctions are conducted on a quarterly basis in March, June, September and December of each year. Based on this schedule, the first RGGI auction implicated by the amendment to RSA 125-O:23, II will occur in March 2014. The Commission opened this docket to receive comment on the method and timing by which it should administer the rebate to retail electric customers. The issues implicated by the new statute are (1) the method by which the Commission should allocate the excess RGGI allowance among all electric providers in New Hampshire; (2) how frequently this allocation should be made; and (3) depending on the method of rebate, what verification or proof is required to assure that electric distribution utilities, competitive energy suppliers and municipal utilities, as applicable, are rebating the excess RGGI amounts to their ratepayers with any associated accrued interest; and (4) whether the Commission should require the rebate to ratepayers on an annual or more frequent basis.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at: <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/docketbk-2014.html>.

Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

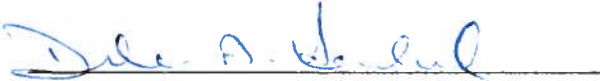
Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a public comment hearing on the issues raised in this Notice be held on March 6, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that comments and suggestions may also be filed by email at executive.director@puc.nh.gov until March 6, 2014; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Executive Director shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by posting a copy of this Order of Notice on the Commission's website no later than February 13, 2014.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twelfth day of February, 2014.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

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