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REC'D PUC 27 APR 16 PM 1:15

April 27, 2016

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

Re: DE 15-137 Energy Efficiency Resource Standard
Settlement Agreement

Dear Ms. Howland:

I enclose for filing an original and six copies of a Settlement Agreement proposed by the Commission Staff and the following parties in the above-referenced proceeding: Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp.; Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.; Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy; the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp.; Northern Utilities, Inc.; the Office of the Consumer Advocate; the Department of Environmental Services; the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP); New Hampshire Community Action Association; The Way Home; the Conservation Law Foundation; The Jordan Institute; Acadia Center; the New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association; the New England Clean Energy Council; the NH Community Development Finance Authority; and TRC Energy Services (collectively, the "Settling Parties"). Based on information and belief, the Settlement Agreement is not contested.

The procedural schedule required the filing of a settlement agreement on April 25, 2016. That day, however, OEP, with the support of the Settling Parties, requested an extension of the filing deadline until April 26. By this letter, Staff, on behalf of the Settling Parties, asks the Commission to accept a late-filed settlement pursuant to N.H. Code of Admin. Rules Puc 203.20 (f), which provides:

Puc 203.20 Settlement and Stipulation of Facts.

...

(f) The commission shall accept late-filed stipulations and settlements when such acceptance:

- (1) Promotes the orderly and efficient conduct of the proceeding; and
- (2) Will not impair the rights of any party to the proceeding[.]

Staff asserts that its request satisfies that standard, because the late-filed Settlement Agreement represents a full, negotiated resolution of all the issues between the Staff and all but one party.

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Consequently, the late-filed Settlement will allow for an orderly and efficient hearing, to the benefit of the Staff, the parties, and the Commission. The Settlement represents a culmination of three weeks of intense, continuous, multi-party negotiations, and its late filing was not the result of inattentiveness or neglect. Also, I am unaware of any objection to the Settlement Agreement or to the Commission's acceptance of it beyond the April 25 deadline in the schedule.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Rorie E. Patterson
Staff Attorney

Enclosure

cc: Service list (electronically)

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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