

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

NHPUIC 7AUG15-11:00

Date: August 7, 2015

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Michael Sheehan, Hearing Examiner

RE: DE 15-248, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
2015 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan

HEARING EXAMINER'S REPORT

At your request, I presided over the August 6, 2015, prehearing conference in the above referenced case.

On June 19, 2015, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed its 2015 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan (LCIRP) for the period 2015 through 2019 and a petition seeking approval of the LCIRP. The Commission issued an order of notice on July 14, 2015, scheduling a prehearing conference and technical session for August 6, 2015.

Appearances: Matthew Fossum, Esq., for Eversource Energy
Suzanne Amidon, Esq., for Staff
Meredith A. Hatfield, Office of Energy and Planning, proposed Intervenor

Intervention Requests: The Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) filed a petition to intervene.

Initial Positions:

No party objected to OEP's petition to intervene.

Eversource stated its 2015 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan (LCIRP) is consistent with the settlement agreement reached in its prior LCIRP proceeding as approved by Order No. 25,659 (May 1, 2014) and Order No. 25,676 (June 21, 2014), and satisfies the requirements of RSA 378:38, "Least Cost Energy Planning."

The Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) stated that its focus will be on whether Eversource's 2015 LCIRP meets the new requirements of RSA 378:38 and the goals of the New Hampshire's Ten Year State Energy Strategy, as released by OEP in September 2014. The OEP noted that RSA 378:38, VII, specifically requires utilities to conduct an "assessment of plan integration and consistency with the state energy strategy under RSA 4-E:1." The OEP cited the requirement for utilities to assess "demand-side energy management programs, including conservation,

efficiency, and load management programs.” RSA 378:38, II. The OEP stated Eversource’s 2010 LCIRP was quite thorough in these areas, having relied on the so-called GDS Study of 2009 as guidance as directed in Order No. 24,945 at 13 (Feb. 27, 2009). The OEP said it also intended to examine Eversource’s treatment of issues related to smart grid technologies, renewable energy, and distributed generation. The OEP stated that its initial review of the 2015 LCIRP did not reveal the assessment and forward-looking analysis required by RSA 378:38 and as performed in the 2010 LCIRP.

Staff said it would examine whether the 2015 LCIRP complies with the 2014 settlement agreement and related orders cited above and whether Eversource performed the assessments required by RSA 378:38. Staff expressed general agreement with the OEP’s view and concerns at this early stage of this docket.

Although the OCA filed its intent to participate in this docket, it was not present at the prehearing conference due to a conflict with another hearing.

Recommendations: I recommend that the Commission grant OEP’s petition to intervene. OEP is an executive branch agency that advises the Governor on energy policy, has an interest in issues that were noticed in this docket (including Eversource’s planning processes, demand side energy programs, and smart grid activities), and has been involved with such issues before the Commission for many years. OEP thus satisfies RSA 541-A:32.

By 
Michael Sheehan, Hearing Examiner

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