

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

DE 15-477

ELECTRIC RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD

**Adjustments to Renewable Portfolio Standard
Class III Requirements**

ORDER OF NOTICE

The Commission has determined that New Hampshire's electricity providers may not be able to procure sufficient renewable energy certificates (REC) to comply with New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements. Accordingly, the Commission is considering making an adjustment to the Class III (Existing Biomass/Methane) requirement for the 2016 compliance year. If the Commission makes no change, the Class III REC requirement will increase from 0.5% of retail sales in 2015 to 8.0% of retail sales in 2016.

Pursuant to statute, the Commission is allowed to adjust Class III RPS requirements as necessary and consistent with the purposes of RSA 362-F. The law allows the Commission, after notice and hearing, to modify Class III requirements "such that the requirements are equal to an amount between 85 percent and 95 percent of the reasonably expected potential annual output of available eligible sources after taking into account demand from similar programs in other states." RSA 362-F:4, VI.

In the recent default service hearings, regarding 2016 energy service rates for customers of Unitil Energy Service, Inc. (Unitil) (Docket No. DE 15-079), and Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. (Liberty) (Docket No. DE 15-010), the Commission heard testimony regarding the pending increase in Class III REC requirements in 2016, and the resulting impact on customer rates. Witnesses for both Unitil and Liberty stated that New Hampshire Class III

RECs are generally not available in the New Hampshire REC market, due to the fact that Class III RECs receive a higher price in Connecticut and Massachusetts than in New Hampshire. As a result, both Unitil and Liberty expect to meet their 2016 RPS compliance obligation for Class III RECs by making alternative compliance payments into the Renewable Energy Fund. Both companies calculate an RPS adder, applied to the energy service rate, by which they obtain revenue to procure compliance with New Hampshire's RPS law. Witnesses for both companies said that the 2016 RPS compliance adder is calculated to be at least double the RPS adder for 2015, primarily as a result of the increase in Class III requirements.

Based on this testimony, the Commission has determined that it should consider an adjustment to the Class III RPS requirement for calendar year 2016. To that end, the Commission will hold a public comment hearing on November 17, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. to gather information on the reasonably expected potential annual output of available Class III eligible sources and available RECs, and the demand for New Hampshire Class III RECs in other New England states based market conditions. Because the current market conditions may continue beyond 2016, the Commission invites interested parties to comment on whether the facts warrant a revision to Class III RPS requirements for years immediately following 2016.

Subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at www.puc.nh.gov.

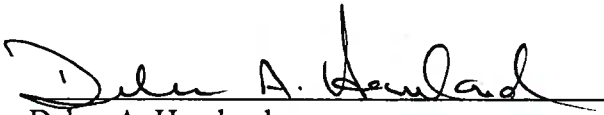
This order of notice raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether it is appropriate and reasonable for the Commission to adjust RPS Class III requirements, and if so, what calendar years should be adjusted, and how the adjustments should be calculated. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Public Statement Hearing, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on November 17, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., for purposes of seeking the comment of interested parties on the Class III REC requirements in 2016 and subsequent years; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the Executive Director shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice on the Commission's website, www.puc.nh.gov, and by electronic mail to the electric distribution utilities and competitive electric suppliers.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this second day of November, 2015.


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.

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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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with: DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
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- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.

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