

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

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DATE: June 15, 2017
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Les Stachow, Assistant-Director – Electric Division
SUBJECT: Peak Reduction Goal
TO: Chairman Honigberg, Commissioners Scott and Bailey
Executive Director Howland

Chapter 219 of the Laws of 2015 (HB 614), effective July 8, 2015, implemented some of the goals as defined in the New Hampshire 10-year State Energy Strategy published by the Office of Energy and Planning in September 2014. The Bill directed that the Commission establish an “electric peak time reduction goal” on or before July 1, 2016.

On June 29, 2016, Staff filed a recommendation proposing an appropriate framework for electric peak load reduction in New Hampshire. Staff observed that two pending dockets, Grid Modernization docket, Docket No IR 15-296, and the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard docket (EERS Docket), Docket DE 15-137, were both exploring ways to use electricity more efficiently, and that the EERS docket would be seeking ways to indirectly reduce peak loads through the application of efficiency measures.

Based upon an analysis of the anticipated budgets proposed for the 2017 Core energy efficiency proceeding Staff recommended that a reasonable target for peak reductions in 2016 would be 8,786kW for summer savings and 9,033kW for winter savings.

By Commission Order No 25,919, dated July 1, 2016, the Commission approved a state wide electric peak time reduction goal of 8,786 kW for summer savings and 9,033 kW for winter savings. The Commission further ordered the Staff of the Electric Division to file a recommendation for a peak reduction goal for 2017 no later than June 15, 2017.

On March 20, 2017 Raab Associates Ltd filed the New Hampshire Grid Modernization Working Group Final Report (Final Report). The preliminary investigative phase of the Grid Modernization investigation is at an end, and interested parties had the opportunity to file comments which were due on May 12, 2017. The review process is now underway but it would be premature to draw peak load reduction recommendations at this time.

On May 31, 2017 the Utilities that at present administer energy efficiency programs for the State submitted a draft New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan to the Commission which seeks to define the way the Utilities hope to implement the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard that is due to go into effect on January 1, 2018.

1 | HB 614 also directed the Commission to open a docket on electric grid modernization by August 1, 2015. That proceeding is docketed as IR 15-296.

At present the draft plan is being reviewed and subject to evaluation by all Stakeholders prior to a final version being submitted by the Utilities on September 1, 2017. Once again given the early stage of the process underway, Staff considers it premature to draw specific recommendations concerning peak load reduction goals for the next year.

Staff recommends that the existing peak load targets be retained until final recommendations are approved by the Commission in the EERS docket DE 15-137, and following the completion of the Grid Modernization process