

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 19-203

ELECTRIC RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD

Adjustment to Renewable Portfolio Standard Class III Requirements

ORDER OF NOTICE

The Commission has determined that New Hampshire electricity providers may not be able to procure sufficient renewable energy certificates (RECs) to comply with New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements under RSA 362-F. Accordingly, the Commission is considering making an adjustment to the Class III (Existing Biomass/Methane) requirement for the 2019 compliance year. If the Commission makes no change, the Class III REC requirement will be 8.0% of retail sales for 2019.

Pursuant to statute, the Commission is authorized 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.

Reports of temporary or permanent closure of multiple Class III certified biomass facilities suggest that electricity providers may not be able to procure sufficient Class III RECs to satisfy Class III requirements for compliance year 2019. In particular, the Commission has received documentation from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services indicating that a number of Class III certified biomass facilities have suspended operations for extended periods during 2019. The combined capacity of the affected facilities represents

approximately 30% of the total capacity of certified Class III facilities, indicating that their suspended operations may have a significant impact on the availability of 2019 Class III RECs. Based on this information, the Commission has determined that an adjustment to the Class III RPS requirement for compliance year 2019 should be considered. Accordingly, the Commission will hold a public comment hearing on Monday, January 13, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., to gather information regarding the 2019 annual electric generation output of certified Class III eligible sources, the corresponding availability of New Hampshire Class III RECs, and the demand for New Hampshire Class III RECs based on market conditions for compliance year 2019.

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 for compliance year 2019, pursuant to RSA 362-F:4, VI, and, if so, how that adjustment should be calculated. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

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.

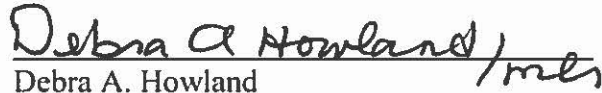
Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a public comment hearing, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R. Puc 203.18, be held before the Commission located at 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on Monday, January 13, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., for purposes of seeking the comment of interested stakeholders on the Class III REC requirements for compliance year 2019; and it is

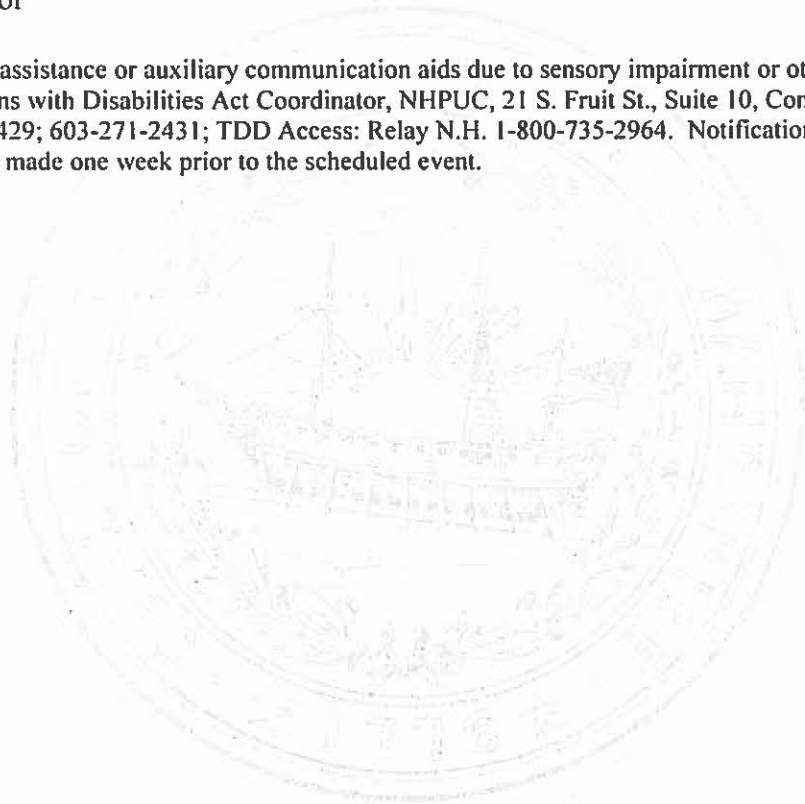
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R. Puc 203.12, the Executive Director shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of

this Order of Notice on the Commission's website at www.puc.nh.gov and by electronic mail to the electric distribution utilities and registered competitive electric power suppliers.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-fourth day of December, 2019.


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.



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