

April 8, 2021

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301
Via Electronic Mail Only

Re: DE 20-092, Electric and Gas Utilities, 2021-2023 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan

Dear Ms. Howland:

Please file this letter as a public comment in DE 20-092.

As representatives of the City of Concord and the Weatherize Concord initiative, we urge you to finalize approval of the New Hampshire Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan and Budgets (2021-2023). The delay in this approval is negatively affecting New Hampshire citizens.

Weatherizing buildings has many benefits to residents and business owners. These include improving the comfort, health and safety of our aging housing stock, substantial decreases in energy costs, and decreased carbon emissions. Improving building energy efficiency is a cost effective strategy for achieving greenhouse gas emissions targets to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

Weatherize Concord was conceptualized to encourage homeowners and businesses to weatherize their homes while raising awareness about the NH Saves program. Our goal is to double the number of Concord participants in NH Saves, with the target of 80 homes and businesses in 2021. The campaign was launched on March 16, 2021 with a panel discussion and website, as well as a downtown banner (www.WeatherizeConcord.org).

In response to delay in the approval of the proposed budgets and programs, Concord now has 32 residential natural gas customers that have applied and are eligible for NH Saves but may see work on their homes put off until at least 2022, or who may not participate at all. We know there is additional need in the community and we have developed outreach campaign infrastructure to reach these home and business owners. The failure of the Commission to issue an Order with regard to the Energy Efficiency Plan has forced us to halt our outreach activities. We find this delay untenable given the climate change emergency that we are in, the savings that could be realized by customers, and the excitement about doing something with multiple benefits as described above.

The demand for weatherization work in the city of Concord mirrors statewide demand. We understand that across the state there are 166 Liberty Gas customers alone that are awaiting weatherization improvements but affected by the PUC budget approval delay. We understand this demand is reflected across all utilities in the state of New Hampshire.

Thank you for your consideration of this time sensitive issue affecting a great number of our state's citizens. We look forward to your swift action to approve the pending settlement proposal, which we understand reflects the agreement of all parties in the docket.

Sincerely,

Robert Werner

Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee (CEEAC) Chair & City Councilor
City of Concord
41 Green Street
Concord, NH 03301