

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

Docket No. DE 20-170

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES

Electric Vehicle Time of Use Rates

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY’S MOTION TO AMEND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
AND REQUEST FOR HYBRID HEARINGS**

NOW COMES the Department of Energy (“DOE”), a party to this proceeding, and moves pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. R. Puc 203.07 to amend the procedural schedule in Docket No. 20-170, cancelling the hearing currently scheduled for January 10, 2022. The DOE also requests that the remaining evidentiary hearings offer a virtual participation option. In support of this Motion, the DOE states as follows:

1. On November 13, 2020, the Commission approved an initial procedural schedule in this proceeding. That procedural schedule was later amended on February 3, 2021, April 29, 2021, August 4, 2021, and October 15, 2021. At present, the procedural schedule allows for five hearing dates: January 10, 19-20, and 25-26, 2022.

2. Although the parties to the proceeding continue to engage in productive settlement negotiations, it is not likely that a settlement will be reached prior to the January 10, 2022 hearing date. Amending the schedule to eliminate the January 10, 2022 hearing date would provide the parties with additional time to negotiate, potentially limiting or eliminating the need for the Commission to resolve disputed issues at hearing. Therefore, the DOE hereby requests that the Commission amend the procedural schedule in this proceeding to eliminate the January 10, 2022 hearing date. The DOE can represent to the Commission that all parties to the proceeding assented to this request to amend the procedural schedule to eliminate the January 10, 2022 hearing date.

3. In its October 15, 2021 Supplemental Order of Notice, the Commission notified the parties to this proceeding that evidentiary hearings would be held in person, but also provided an opportunity for parties to request hybrid hearings utilizing a Webex videoconferencing platform if there is good reason to do so, such as to reduce witness travel costs. The DOE and several other parties have sponsored the testimony of witnesses who would have to travel interstate, in some cases for several hours, to appear before the Commission in-person. If the Commission were to allow for a hybrid hearing format, travel costs associated with this in-person appearance could be avoided. The DOE, through this motion, requests that the Commission find the reduction in travel costs represents good reason for the hearings in this proceeding to be held in hybrid format.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons set forth herein, DOE respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Amend the procedural schedule as proposed above; and
2. Grant such further relief as is just, equitable, and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,
Department of Energy
By its Attorney,

/s/ Brian D. Buckley

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I hereby certify that, on December 23, 2021, a copy of this Response has been sent electronically to the Service List in this matter.

Brian D. Buckley

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