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February 17, 2023

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: Docket No. IR 22-076 Investigation of Whether Current Tariffs and Programs are Sufficient to Support Demand Response and Electric Vehicle Charging Programs
DOE and DES's proposed procedural schedule

Dear Chairman Goldner:

The New Hampshire Department of Energy ("DOE" or "the Department") files this letter in response to the Commission's request that docket participants confer and recommend a procedural schedule on or before February 17, 2023. *See* Commission's Procedural Order at 4 (February 6, 2023).

DOE's proposed procedural schedule asks that, on or before April 1, 2023, the "NH Electric Utilities" state whether, in their opinion, standards in the Federal Jobs Act for demand response have been met, and provide a summary of all relevant demand response programs and dockets at that time. DOE also recommends that the Commission's planned April 26, 2023 status conference be held to address any questions or concerns the Commission may have on that threshold question. *See* Order of Notice (November 15, 2022); 16 U.S.C. sec. 2621 (b)(c)(d)(21). Other participants might also comment.

DOE's proposed framework would present the Commission with an efficient method of reaching a conclusion on that threshold question whenever it was convenient for the Commission to do so. Were the Commission to conclude additional review of demand response matters was necessary, an April process would leave a six-month period before the November 2023 federal deadline. *See* Order of Notice (EV standards met, demand response to be determined).

DOE sought docket participants' input on this proposal by email on February 14, 2023, one day after the NH Electric Utilities vetted their proposal. The Department of Environmental Services, by and through its representatives Becky Ohler and Philp LaMoreaux, joins DOE in this procedural proposal. Clean Energy New Hampshire did not have an opinion. No other participants responded.

DOE has no objection to the NH Electric Utilities' proposal that they and other participants be granted an extra eight weeks to fully address the issues the Commission identified in the Order of Notice (November 15, 2022). *See* NH Electric Utilities' Letter (February 17, 2023). Similarly, DOE has no objection to a related June status conference.

Consistent with the Commission's current policy, this letter is being filed solely in electronic form. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer

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