



NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Working for Equal Justice Since 1971

www.nhla.org

September 21, 2023

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New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Berlin
38 Glen Avenue
Berlin, NH 03570
603-752-1102

Re: Docket No. DE 23-068 Electric and Gas Utilities 2024-2026 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan – OCA Motion for Remote Participation and for an Additional Pre-Hearing Conference

Claremont
24 Opera House Square
Suite 206
Claremont, NH 03743
603-542-8795

To the Commission:

On September 14, 2023, the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a Motion for Remote Participation and for an Additional Pre-Hearing Conference in Docket No. DE 23-068. LISTEN Community Service writes in support of the OCA's motion.

Concord
117 North State Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-223-9750

Remote Participation

Manchester
1850 Elm Street
Suite 7
Manchester, NH 03104
603-668-2900

At this time, LISTEN does not expect to call any witnesses that would need to participate in the hearings remotely. However, LISTEN believes it is appropriate for witnesses to appear remotely if it would not prejudice any party and it would avoid the significant expenses necessary to appear in-person. As the OCA noted, any costs it incurs will ultimately be passed on to the ratepayers.

Portsmouth
154 High Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-431-7411

Allowing remote participation when it would reduce costs could also help increase the participation of stakeholders with limited resources even if those costs will not be passed on to ratepayers. The cost of participating in person can be burdensome on low-income individuals and non-profit organizations with limited resources that serve low-income communities. Had LISTEN and New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA) retained an expert witness in this case, it is very likely that the witness would have been located out of state. Therefore, LISTEN believes the OCA's request should be granted.

Administration
117 North State Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-4107

Prehearing Conference

LISTEN also supports the OCA's request to schedule another prehearing conference for the reasons stated in its motion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Burke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Raymond Burke, Esq.
New Hampshire Legal Assistance
Attorney for LISTEN Community Services

Cc: service list via email