

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. DE 23-068

Electric and Gas Utilities 2024-2026 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY PETITION TO INTERVENE

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) hereby petitions to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding in accordance with Puc Rule 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32. In support of its petition, TNC states as follows:

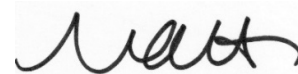
1. TNC is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. TNC's New Hampshire Chapter was established more than sixty years ago, and today employs twenty-five staff working on a broad range of initiatives, from land protection and stewardship, to freshwater and marine restoration, to climate adaptation and climate mitigation initiatives. TNC has over 23,000 supporters and followers in New Hampshire, and is guided in its work by a volunteer Board of Trustees of twenty business, civic, and conservation leaders from around the state. TNC is a property owner in communities around the state, including ownership of an office building in Newmarket.
2. This proceeding concerns the review of the statewide 2024-2026 energy efficiency plan proposed by the New Hampshire Utilities filed with the Commission on June 30, 2023.
3. Consistent with its mission to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends, TNC advances sound energy efficiency policies and programs that strengthen New Hampshire's competitiveness and protect its natural and cultural environment. The TNC NH Chapter has engaged in a range of energy policy and programmatic efforts for more than a decade, including serving on the NH Climate Task Force, Chairing the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EESE) Board, being a founding member of NH Energy Week, and working with policymakers to advance important energy legislation including bills related to the energy efficiency programs which are the subject of this proceeding.

4. TNC understands that energy efficiency is a key building block to ensure that residents and businesses have access to cost effective methods to mitigate the disastrous impacts of climate change in our state, its residents, and natural resources. TNC also understands the role that efficiency and demand reduction can play in meeting a broad range of energy diversity, cost, environment, economic, and public health goals. TNC is cognizant of the important cost-effectiveness requirements for efficiency programs and respects the need to ensure that utility ratepayer funds are wisely invested in safe and reliable energy sources.
5. TNC and TNC's New Hampshire supporters have a direct and substantial interest in the outcome of this proceeding. The rights, duties, privileges, immunities, and other substantial interests of TNC and its New Hampshire supporters will be affected by the decisions made in this proceeding. The 2024-2026 statewide energy efficiency plan will guide state energy efficiency work for this time period and beyond. TNC has expertise that can support the Commission's review of the utilities' proposal. TNC has worked closely with the utilities and other parties on energy efficiency for a number of years, as described above. Participation in this proceeding will also allow TNC to represent the interests of TNC supporters who benefit from energy efficiency investments through costs savings, local economic activity, and reduced emissions. The interests of TNC and TNC's New Hampshire supporters are not adequately represented by any other party.
6. TNC respectfully submits that its participation in this matter is in the interest of justice and will not impair the orderly conduct of the proceeding, and TNC commits to working cooperatively with the other parties.

WHEREFORE, TNC respectfully requests that it be granted full intervenor status in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY



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