05/27/16

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DE 16-614

RESIDENTIAL BULK-FED WOOD PELLET FURNACE AND BOILER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Program Modifications and Formal Program Adoption

ORDER OF NOTICE

Since April 2010, the Commission has administered a residential bulk-fed wood pellet furnace and boiler incentive program. The program was initiated using funds available from the U.S. Department of Energy under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (OEP), but has used and continues to use funds available from the renewable energy fund established and maintained under RSA 362-F:10 (REF). Under the current terms and conditions of the program, eligible program applicants receive a rebate payment, equal to 30% of system and installation costs up to a maximum of $6,000, for investments in residential high-efficiency, bulk-fuel fed wood-pellet central heating boilers and furnaces that are installer-certified and became operational on or after May 1, 2012.

Commission Staff has recommended that the program be modified to temporarily increase the applicable incentive level, to provide an incentive adder for greater fuel storage capacity, and to reduce facility emissions limits. Staff described these proposed modifications in a memorandum filed in this docket on May 27, 2016. Staff also recommended that the Commission formally adopt and ratify the incentive program and its administration and use of REF monies, under RSA 362-F:10, VIII. Staff's memorandum and other filings in this docket are available on the Commission's website through the following link: http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2016/16-614.html.

The Commission seeks comment on the program modifications recommended by Staff and the formal adoption and ratification of the program from various stakeholders, including, but not limited to, prospective applicants, residential wood pellet project developers, equipment vendors and installers, and state and regional experts on the residential renewable energy market. The Commission will hold a hearing on Friday, June 3, 2016 at 1:00 p.m., to receive public comment on the proposed program modifications and the formal adoption and ratification of the incentive program. Following the hearing, participants will have until June 10, 2016 to provide additional written comments.

This notice raises, inter alia, issues related to modifications to applicable incentive levels and program eligibility requirements for the Commission's residential bulk-fed wood pellet furnace and boiler incentive program, as well as the formal adoption and ratification of the incentive program under RSA 362-F:10, VIII.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a public comment hearing on the proposed modifications to the residential bulk-fed wood pellet furnace and boiler incentive program and the formal adoption and ratification of the program shall be held on June 3, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that final written comments shall be filed by June 10, 2016; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that comments and suggestions may also be filed by e-mail at executive.director@puc.nh.gov; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the Executive Director shall notify all persons of this proceeding by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than May 27, 2016 by causing it to be posted on the Commission's website.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-seventh day of May, 2016.

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.