

## MINUTES

### COMMISSION MEETING

July 23, 2020

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission meeting was held by remote access due to Covid-19 concerns.<sup>1</sup> The meeting began at 8:37 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020. Chairwoman Dianne Martin, Commissioner Kathryn Bailey, and Commissioner Michael Giaimo were present.

Chairwoman Martin found that, due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Commission is authorized to meet electronically. She further stated that there is no physical location to observe and listen to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, she confirmed that the Commission is utilizing WebEx for the electronic meeting and all members of the Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during the meeting using this platform. The public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, to participate. The Commission had previously given notice to the public of the necessary information for access to the public meeting.

A roll call attendance of the Commission was then taken. Chairwoman Dianne Martin stated she was alone. Commissioner Kathryn Bailey stated she was alone. Commissioner Michael Giaimo also stated he was alone.

The following matters were discussed and actions taken:

1. Approval of the June 26, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Giaimo made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2020, Commission Meeting. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote. Commissioner Bailey voted yes. Commissioner Giaimo voted yes. Chairwoman Martin voted yes. The motion was approved unanimously.

2, Rulemaking DRM 19-158 Puc 900, Net Metering for Customer-Owned Renewable Energy Generation of 1,000 Kilowatts or Less – Final Readoption with Amendments of Puc 900 Rules and Setting Effective Date of Amended Rules

Chairwoman Martin asked Attorney David Wiesner to summarize the rulemaking. Attorney Wiesner explained this is the final step in the rulemaking process, as this is the final adoption of the rules with amendments.

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<sup>1</sup> See RSA 91-A, Executive Order 2020-04 paragraphs 8 and 18, Emergency Order #12 *Temporary modification of public access to meetings under RSA 91-A*, and Emergency Order #16 *Temporary prohibition on scheduled gatherings of 10 or more attendees*. See <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/emergency-orders/>.

In June, the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) conditionally approved the final proposal for re adoption of the rules with amendments. It was then necessary for the Commission to vote in June to provide a conditional approval response to the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) confirming that the Commission had accepted the conditions JLCAR approved. The Commission was then cleared by OLS to adopt the final rules, which incorporate the changes that were conditionally approved by JLCAR in June.

Attorney Wiesner further stated that this is the final step that the Commission needs to take as a body, and the final rules as adopted will then be submitted to OLS.

Attorney Wiesner also explained that the Commission through its vote would also set the effective date for the rules, which could have been as early as July 24, 2020. However, Commission Staff recommended that the effective date be deferred for a period of time to allow the utilities adequate time to develop modifications to their billing systems, in particular for on-bill crediting for group net metered projects, which will require some system work. The Commission has up to 60 days to defer the effective date of the adopted rules. Staff proposed Monday, September 14, as the effective date for the rules.

Commissioner Bailey made a motion to approve the final version of the rules for re adoption with amendments, with an effective date of September 14, 2020. Commissioner Giaimo seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote. Commissioner Bailey voted yes. Commissioner Giaimo voted yes. Chairwoman Martin voted yes. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. New Business

None.

4. Miscellaneous Administrative Matters

Chairwoman Martin stated that the next Commission meeting will be determined at a later date.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Giaimo and seconded by Commissioner Bailey. There was a roll call vote. Commissioner Bailey voted yes. Commissioner Giaimo voted yes. Chairwoman Martin voted yes. The motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 a.m.