**ORIGINAL** 

RE: DE 22-060

**PUC HEARING** 

August 22, 2024



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## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

August 22, 2024, 9:03 a.m. 21 South Fruit Street Suite 10 Concord, NH

**ORIGINAL** 

RE: DE 22-060

Consideration to the Current Net Metering Tariff Structures, Including Compensation

of Customer Generators

PRESENT: Chairman Daniel C. Goldner, Presiding

Commissioner Pradip K. Chattopadhyay

Ben Martin-McDonough, Esq./PUC

Legal Advisor

### **APPEARANCES:**

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Reptg. Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp.,d/b/a Liberty Utilities: Michael J. Sheehan, Esq.

Reptg. Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.: Patrick H. Taylor, Esq.

Reptg. Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire: Clifton Below

Reptg. Clean Energy New Hampshire: Sam Evans-Brown

Transcribed from Webex Recording by: Nancy J. Theroux, NH LCR No. 100

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6	Representing Residential Ratepayers:  Donald M. Kreis, Esq. Consumer Advocate
7	Office of the Consumer Advocate
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# 1 PROCEEDING 2 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Commissioner Goldner and Commissioner Chattopadhyay. 3 We're back here for the second day of 4 a hearing in DE 22-060. Before we begin today's 5 proceedings, I would like to remind everyone that 6 7 we're proceeding today without an in-person stenographer, and we would like to -- I would 8 like to remind everyone -- sorry -- we are making 10 a verbatim sound recording that will be 11 transcribed pursuant to RSA 541-A:31, VII, and Puc 203.31. 12 13 As I did at Tuesday's hearing, I want 14 to remind all parties that they need to speak 15 clearly, slowly, and into the microphones. 16 includes making sure to press the microphone button and make sure the red -- red light is on 17 18 prior to talking. 19 Finally, we must all identify ourselves prior to speaking. If we do not follow 20 21 these simple steps, our recording will not be 22 accurately transcribed. 23 Also, by a show of hands, are there

1	members of the public here today who would like
2	to provide public comment and did not do so on
3	Tuesday?
4	Okay. Seeing none, we'll begin by
5	taking appearances, beginning with the New
6	Hampshire Department of Energy.
7	MS. LADWIG: Good morning. Alexandra
8	Ladwig, and with me is co-counsel, Paul Dexter.
9	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you.
10	Eversource.
11	MS. CHIAVARA: Good morning,
12	Commissioners. Jessica Chiavara, here on behalf
13	of Public Service Company of New Hampshire, doing
14	business as Eversource Energy.
15	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Liberty.
16	MR. SHEEHAN: Good morning. Mike
17	Sheehan for Liberty Utilities/Granite State
18	Electric Corp.
19	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Unitil.
20	MR. TAYLOR: Good morning,
21	Commissioners. Patrick Taylor appearing on
22	behalf of Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
23	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: The Office of the

1	Consumer Advocate.
2	MR. KREIS: Good morning,
3	Mr. Chairman. I'm Attorney Donald Kreis doing
4	business as the Consumer Advocate.
5	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. Clean
6	Energy New Hampshire.
7	MR. EVANS-BROWN: Good morning,
8	Commissioners. Sam Evans-Brown of Clean Energy.
9	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Community Power
10	Coalition of New Hampshire.
11	MS. MANZELLI: Good morning. Good
12	morning, Commissioners. Amy Manzelli here for
13	the Coalition.
14	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. The
15	Conservation Law Foundation.
16	MR. KRAKOFF: Good morning,
17	Commissioners. Nick Krakoff on behalf of the
18	Conservation Law Foundation.
19	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Granite State
20	Hydropower Association. Not here.
21	Standard Power of America.
22	MR. HAYDEN: Good morning. Robert
23	Hayden from Standard Power.

1	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. And
2	Walmart.
3	MR. HORNE: Good morning. Melissa
4	Horne appearing on behalf of Walmart, Inc.
5	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you.
6	Okay. Before we resume testimony, I
7	want to lay out the process for the remainder of
8	the hearing and address a few procedural issues.
9	On Tuesday we completed the direct and
10	cross-examination of the witnesses from Dunsky,
11	who completed the value of distributed energy
12	resources study. With one exception that I'm
13	going to address in a moment, we also completed
14	the direct and cross-examination of the joint
15	parties' witnesses.
16	For today, that leaves the direct and
17	cross-examination of the Department of Energy and
18	CPCNH witnesses. For the schedule we agreed to
19	on Tuesday, the DOE will go first, followed by
20	CPCNH.
21	At that point, as we agreed on
22	Tuesday, we will entertain requests from the
23	joint parties to present additional rebuttal

1 testimony, if appropriate.

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2 There are a few things we need to consider before moving to testimony. The first 3 relates to Liberty's witnesses. Liberty did not 4 present witnesses on Tuesday. It represented 5 that one of the two witnesses who contributed to 6 7 the joint parties' pre-file direct testimony, filed as Exhibit 2, Mr. Kommineni has since left 8 9 the company. It further represented that its 10 other witness, Laura Sasso, would -- would adopt 11 her pre-filed testimony today.

So we have two questions for Liberty. First, does the fact that Mr. Kommineni is not here today to adopt his testimony affect what evidence the Commission can consider?

MR. SHEEHAN: I don't think so. The issue of adopting testimony is something that's been kicked around at the Commission for a while. You have every right to accept the document as has been marked as an exhibit. To the extent a live person wasn't here to adopt it, it would go to your consideration of the weight of that evidence.

1 I can tell you the evidence that 2 Liberty has within that testimony is some of the Liberty-specific numbers. If the Commission has 3 any questions that couldn't be answered by live 4 witness, we can certainly take a record request 5 on those. However, I don't think they're 6 7 particularly material to the bigger issues that 8 are before you. 9 Jumping to the second question. 10 Unknown to me Tuesday, Ms. Sasso is simply not 11 available this week for personal reasons, and I 12 apologize for not getting ahead of that to 13 resolve it. So -- so the issue with Mr. Kommineni 14 15 who has left, Ms. Sasso won't be able to be here 16 this week, we have the same issue for both of the Liberty witnesses on the direct panel. 17 I do note -- do know Mr. Garcia is in 18 the room. He was participating in the rebuttal 19 The direct testimony was filed before 20 testimony. 21 he joined Liberty. So not to put him on the 22 spot, but if there is a Liberty-specific 23 question, there's a chance Mr. Garcia could

Again, if not, we'd have to take a 1 answer it. 2 record request and follow that procedure. 3 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Thank you, Attorney Sheehan. 4 The second issue relates to a motion 5 by CLF to allow post-hearing briefing. 6 We grant 7 that motion. We note that on Tuesday, the parties already requested or agreed to brief 8 9 several issues, including: One, whether the Commission should take administrative notice of 10 11 utility witness testimony in a prior docket; two, 12 whether the costs of net metering to ratepayers 13 where the utilities will calculate both the dollar amount and bill impact of the subsidy for 14 15 both residential and commercial classes 16 constitutes an unfair subsidization; and three, whether the Commission has the authority to 17 18 quarantee a particular rate recovery formula for 19 a set period. 20 I want to give everyone a chance to 21 speak on this. In doing so, please let me know 22 if there are any issues that we agreed to brief

on Tuesday that I am -- that I am missing.

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1	So we can start with the New Hampshire
2	Department of Energy.
3	MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig.
4	Apologies. You mean speak on the issues right
5	now?
6	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Yes. We just want
7	to we're just trying to summarize the results
8	from the Tuesday hearing and to align on those
9	issues before we move forward with testimony
10	today.
11	MS. LADWIG: Are you and, again,
12	apologies for clarifying. Are you asking whether
13	we want to do post-hearing brief on those issues,
14	or do a preliminary addressing of those issues
15	right now?
16	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Yes, thank you.
17	Attorney Martin-McDonough was highlighting was
18	clarifying your question.
19	No, we're just trying to align on the
20	topics, not to give testimony or any any
21	evidence.
22	MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig. Thank
23	you. That is helpful. Yes, I believe, off the

1 top of my head, those were the topics, and we're 2 fine with that. 3 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: And we'll also 4 check in before we leave today, so we're just trying to get alignment before witness testimony 5 6 on the topics. 7 Okay. Very good. We'll move to 8 Eversource. 9 MS. CHIAVARA: I would actually, 10 respectfully, request that you repeat the second 11 and third topics. I'm not writing very quickly 12 this morning. 13 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Excellent. Excellent. Will do. 14 I'll repeat all three just to -- just 15 16 so that folks can -- can get comfortable with the 17 topics. So the first was whether the 18 19 Commission should take administrative notice of 20 utility witness testimony in a prior topic. 21 Two was whether the costs of net 22 metering to ratepayers, where the utilities will calculate both the dollar amount and the bill 23

1 impact of the subsidy for both residential and 2 commercial classes, constitutes an unfair subsidization. 3 And, three, whether the Commission has 4 the authority to guarantee a particular rate for 5 every formula for a set period. 6 MS. CHIAVARA: So I would say I --I -- as to the second issue, whether the cost to 8 9 ratepayers and the utilities calculating residential versus business classes constitutes 10 11 unfair or unreasonable subsidization, I'm -- I'm 12 not sure exactly how to approach that as a -- as 13 a legal issue, as a legal analysis, but I can --14 I can confer with my colleagues maybe during 15 lunch break today. 16 We have no objections to the other two I was just wondering, will there be 17 opportunity, should other issues arise today, to 18 19 include those in the briefing as well? 20 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Yes, and I'll --21 I'll add that, before we leave today, we'll --22 we'll circle back on the alignment, and the Commission will -- will -- will publish a 23

- 1 post-hearing order with -- with the exact -- with 2 the exact summary so that there's clarity, given 3 that there's no stenographer here today, and it may take some time to get the transcript. We'll 4 5 publish that straightaway after the -- after the 6 hearing. 7 MS. CHIAVARA: Great. Thank you. 8 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. 9 Liberty. 10 MR. SHEEHAN: I have nothing further 11 to add. The conversations so far make sense to 12 us. 13 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Unitil. 14 MR. TAYLOR: Yeah, I have nothing to 15 add either. Thank you.
- 16 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: The Office of the
- 17 | Consumer Advocate.
- MR. KREIS: I think those three issues
  are reasonable ones, and we're prepared to
  state -- statement -- take positions on them at
  the appropriate time.
- 22 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. Clean
- 23 | Energy New Hampshire.

1	MR. EVANS-BROWN: We have no comments.
2	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: The Community Power
3	Coalition of New Hampshire.
4	MS. MANZELLI: Thank you,
5	Mr. Commissioner. I have a couple of clarifying
6	questions. First of all, I would ask to clarify
7	that briefing on the three issues that you have
8	integrated would be either optional or mandatory,
9	and I would also suggest that the briefs be
10	optionally permitted to cover all of the topics
11	noticed for this docket as an option.
12	Acknowledging that that may make for
13	lengthy briefing, you know, we would not be
14	opposed to a suggested page limit at the
15	Commission's discretion. Thank you.
16	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. The
17	Conservation Law Foundation.
18	MR. KRAKOFF: Yeah, thank you. Nick
19	Krakoff, Conservation Law Foundation.
20	When I made my motion on Tuesday, I
21	think my my intent was to brief, you know,
22	basically the relevant law governing this case.
23	And so that I think you get at that with the

1	second question you asked. However, I think it's
	second question you asked. However, I think it s
2	a broader question than just whether there's
3	unfair subsidization. I think you need to look
4	at the whole legislative history and
5	particularly, you know, the statutory language
6	under, you know, RSA 362:A-9.
7	So I mean, I think you know, I
8	would sort of frame that a little broader, sort
9	of what's the governing the governing law and
10	the governing statutory structure for this case,
11	rather than just sort of the you know, just
12	sort of leading leading question that's been
13	provided on whether there's unfair subsidization
14	or not.
15	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you, Attorney
16	Krakoff.
17	We'll move now to Standard Power of
18	America.
19	MR. HAYDEN: No comment.
20	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: And to Walmart.
21	MS. HORNE: Walmart has Walmart has
22	nothing to add to this discussion. Thank you.
23	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. Okay.

So I'll summarize as best I can at 1 2 this point, and we'll further refine it over the course of today's proceeding. 3 So the idea is to provide two rounds 4 of briefing. Specifically in the first round, 5 the parties could lay out clear terms for the 6 7 actions that they're requesting the Commission to take, summarize all evidence in favor of their 8 9 positions, and address any relevant legal issues 10 that spoke to Mr. Krakoff's point. This briefing 11 would include responses to the issues as 12 discussed above. 13 The second would allow the parties to 14 respond to issues raised by the initial briefing. 15 We note that the briefing would be limited to 16 argument, and the parties would not be allowed to present additional evidence. 17 18 So, given that summary, I'll just check in to see if there's any additional 19 20 comments to that -- that layout. 21 Seeing none. Okay. Okay. So we 22 will -- we will have one more discussion on this before the end of the -- end of the proceeding 23

-	
1	today, but the Commission will issue a procedural
2	schedule after the hearing, laying out the scope
3	and timeline of this briefing schedule and the
4	topics as well.
5	Okay. Before we move on, are there
6	any other issues that we need to address before
7	we go to testimony? Yes?
8	MR. AALTO: Pentti Aalto representing
9	myself.
10	I do have left over from the some
11	references from previous dockets, where I was
12	able to provide something that may be useful
13	here (indiscernible).
14	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Oh, Mr. Aalto, if
15	you can find a microphone, and keep it to two
16	minutes, please.
17	MR. AALTO: In front?
18	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Yes, in front would
19	be perfect.
20	MR. AALTO: I see the red button.
21	There are two docket items. The first
22	was DE 16-576, comments on this 716.18, and that
23	concerns a mechanism for allocating the

transmission and distribution costs in a way that 1 2 manipulates markets; that is to say, the price changes with loading on the system. 3 concept is to have a system broken down in those 4 main segments, each of them providing a price 5 adder that shows up to the individual customer on 6 a real-time basis. 8 The intent is to have the customer have the information necessary to respond to 9 10 system conditions. Heavily loaded line would see 11 a high price. Low lines would be likely less. 12 And they could either buy or sell at that price. 13 The second item is DE 06-061. 14 goes back a few years, and that was a proposal by myself and Roy Morrison to do a pilot of a 15 16 customer metering system that we had operating at the time that provided for 5-minute price signal, 17 calculation of the cumulative prices, 10 kilowatt 18 hours at the meter, and the communication of 19 those back to the central facility, where they 20 2.1 would be available. 22 The process also allowed for direct

control, based on the price, the customer's

2.3

1 appliances as they chose to program them. If the 2 price went over a dime, you could shut your water 3 heater off. All of that was in it. It was an 4 operating system that I was able to test for 5 about six months in an installation in Lowell, 6 7 Massachusetts. So it applied for both the price 8 9 development. It did require communication, but the metering was -- at that time used a simple 10 11 analog meter with a false output, and the 12 processor had processor memory and transceivers 13 do a lot of the communication. At that point, it 14 used the pager -- two-way paging networks that 15 were available. There was no interest at the 16 time. I would be glad to discuss any of that 17 with anyone, if there's a need to do so, and 18 answer any questions about the individual 19 thoughts that go behind it. 20 21 Thank you. And thank you very much 22 for the opportunity to add this. 2.3 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you.

1	Okay. Seeing no questions, let's move
2	on to the DOE. One at a time. Can you please
3	state your name for the record.
4	MS. NIXON: Elizabeth Nixon.
5	MS. PERRUCCIO: Deandra Perruccio.
6	MR. TOSCANO: Mark Toscano.
7	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. One at
8	a time. I'm sorry, can you please raise your
9	right hands.
10	(Whereupon, ELIZABETH NIXON, DEANDRA
11	PERRUCCIO and MARK TOSCANO were duly sworn by
12	Chairman Goldner.)
13	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. Okay.
14	The witnesses are ready for direct. Before
15	taking testimony, I'll just reiterate that we
16	have the witnesses' pre-file testimony, and we'd
17	ask that any direct testimony today be limited to
18	clarifications and/or corrections of that
19	pre-file testimony.
20	DIRECT EXAMINATION
21	BY MS. LADWIG:
22	Q. Thank you. Alexandra Ladwig questioning. I'm
23	going to have you state your names again, and,

- also, please, your position with the department.
- 2 | A. (Nixon) Elizabeth Nixon, Electric Director.
- 3 A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano, Utility Analyst.
- 4 A. (Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio, Administrator of Sustainability.
- 6 Q. Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
- And did you prepare testimony in this docket that was filed on December 6th, 2023?
- 9 A. (Nixon) Ms. Nixon. Yes, we all did.
- 10 Q. Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
- And that testimony is marked as
- 12 Exhibit 7 in this proceeding?
- 13 A. (Toscano) Yeah. Mark Toscano, yes.
- 14 | O. Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
- Do you have any corrections or changes
  you'd like to make to that testimony today?
- 17 A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.
- No corrections, but we'll talk about
  it further regarding application fees. There's
  been development since we initially did our
  testimony.
- 22 Q. Alexandra Ladwig. Thank you.
- 23 And on that note, do you adopt that

	testimony as your sworn testimony in this
	proceeding? And if you could each answer that.
Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano. Yes.
Α.	(Nixon) Nixon. Yes.
Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. Yes.
Q.	Alexandra Ladwig.
	And I want to start with a couple of
	quick clarification questions. First, when
	Dunsky testified on Tuesday, they stated an order
	number that developed the scope of the VDER
	study. CLF brought up some confusion on whether
	that was the correct order number.
	Could you just please clarify what was
	the order and order number that developed the
	study scope?
Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio.
	It was Order 26,316 that was issued
	December 18th, 2019.
Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
	And then the Settlement Agreement,
	Exhibit 1, refers on Bates 2 to the DOE VDER
	study. Could you also just clarify the
	relationship of the Department to the VDER study?
	A. A. Q.

1	Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio.
2		Sure. So the VDER study was directed
3		by the Commission in Order 26,029. It did
4		layouts of specific scope requirements in that
5		order.
6		The study scope was then further
7		developed through stakeholder processes that were
8		facilitated by Commission staff at that time and
9		approved, then, finally by the Commission.
10		Dunsky was then selected by Commission
11		staff to conduct the study, and staff facilitated
12		that contract.
13		And as the Department was created,
14		Department staff continued to facilitate that
15		consultant to complete the study.
16		That was our role and has continued to
17		be our role.
18	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig. Thank you.
19		And without launching necessarily into
20		a detailed summary of your testimony, could you
21		just briefly describe your positions and
22		testimony.
23	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.

1 Yes, the current net metering tariff 2 seems appropriate based on -- as demonstrated by the results of the VDER study. We recommend the 3 current net metering compensation rate structure 4 continue for distributed generation systems less 5 than 5 megawatts. 6 We propose that the appropriate time-of-use rates be reviewed, developed, and 8 9 implemented. As the VDER study indicated, that 10 the value of these systems does vary by time, and 11 it's been well discussed here. 12 We propose the renewal energy 13 portfolio costs and prior reconciliation costs be 14 included in equal energy rates. And we stated 15 that the rate and bill impact study shows 16 minimal -- very minimal cost shifting to non-net-metered customers; and therefore, we have 17 18 proposed that this kind of structure stay in 19 place for all customer generators. It's stated also that currently, we do 20 21 not see any reason to limit the generating 22 capacity eligible for net metering in terms of 2.3 system-wide.

1		We propose that the customer
2		generators have the option to be placed on TLV
3		rate, if it's available and if it's appropriate.
4		And we have recommended development of
5		standardized application fees be addressed in the
6		working groups established by the study IP in '22
7		(indiscernible).
8		We will follow that up if needed
9		regarding our comments on the settlement
10		discussion.
11	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning. Thank you.
12		And have you read the Settlement
13		Agreement in this docket that was filed on August
14		1st, 2024, and is marked as Exhibit 1?
15	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano responding. Yes.
16	Α.	(Nixon) Liz Nixon. Yes.
17	Α.	(Perruccio) Andrea Perruccio. Yes.
18	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
19		And there's five recommendations in
20		the Settlement Agreement that are listed on Bates
21		1 through 2. The agreement, on Bates 1, states
22		that it resolves all issues among the settling
23		parties. And on Bates 7, it states that approval

1		by the Commission and implementation of the terms
2		of settlement as proposed that will will
3		result in rates that are just and reasonable.
4		Whether or not you agree with those
5		five recommendations, do you believe there are
6		any issues or questions that need to be resolved
7		in this proceeding that are not addressed in the
8		Settlement Agreement?
9	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano. No.
10	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
11		Okay. Now I want to walk through the
12		Department's position on the issues that are
13		raised in the Settlement Agreement.
14		First, relating to the legacy period.
15		Could you explain the Department's position on
16		the legacy period proposed in the settlement?
17	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.
18		We believe the status quo is adequate,
19		especially given that this will be explored in
20		great detail in upcoming efforts over the next
21		couple of years.
22	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
23		And just to be clear, when you say

"status quo," you mean keep the current date of 1 2 2024 for -- apologies -- 2040, meaning that anyone who begins net metering following this 3 proceeding would still be able to lock into the 4 current net metering tariff structure until 2040? 5 Mark Toscano. 6 Α. (Toscano) Yes. 7 Alexandra Ladwig questioning. Q. 8

And could you please explain the reasons why the Department is not in support of extending the legacy period past 2020 -- I keep saying it -- past 2040 as part of this proceeding?

A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.

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And since this will be addressed over the next two years, we feel that the status quo makes sense. And others have said, during this hearing, that any additional complexity and administrative efforts now does not make sense to us given -- especially given the general agreement or disagreement that the current compensation structure is adequate.

But further, the end date of 2040, in our view, will minimize some of the capacities

that utilities have to deal with regarding end dates. If people start drawing on different times, the utilities would either have to do it on a monthly basis, or I believe they mentioned they would reconcile on an annual basis, but they still have to have varying end dates. And, again, it adds additional complexity, when we're going to be revisiting all of these things in the very near future. So we felt that it just makes sense to keep what it is.

Moreover, since there are substantial changes, possibly with NEM 3.0, within the next two years or so, including time-varying rates that add additional compensation categories, which I believe most are quite supportive of.

We're not confident it makes sense to lock in the status quo for 20 -- that go beyond 2040.

Q. Alexandra Ladwig questioning.

And what is your response to the settling parties' argument that, without the ruling 20-year legacy period, renewable development in New Hampshire would be dis-incentivized?

1 Α. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding. 2 The Department is not -- we're not 3 convinced by argument that -- and the illustrations provided that the 2040 -- the 4 ending of the 2040 legacy period would end --5 excuse me, in short term -- let me restate that. 6 7 I apologize. 8 I'll go off what I have, so forgive I'm just going to get back to what I have. 9 me. 10 In the exhibits, you know, Bates --11 excuse me, for the -- in the Settlement 12 Agreement, on Bates 29, they have Scenarios 1A 13 and 2B that show an end of compensation in 2040. 14 Which is, as you mentioned, the current end --15 that's the current end of net metering. 16 However, even if net metering were to 17 end, there are other avenues, as was discussed last Tuesday, for power generators that still has 18 value and could be sold under different fees, 19 20 either through to ISO New England markets or 21 This was -- again, this was discussed contracts.

While it's -- the other comment is

22

23

on Tuesday.

it's highly unlikely that net metering is going to end in 2040. There will be something in place, and we're going to be working on that, and other folks will be working on it over the next couple of years. So that's our -- that's our view.

And it is certainly possible, as was discussed, that the actual compensation rates could be less, but they could be more, ending in 2040, again. So it wouldn't end in 2040. It would just be a different way. And that's assuming that nobody ever did anything regarding NEM 3.0.

O. Alexandra Ladwig questioning.

2.3

And to your knowledge, are there existing facilities that could be eligible for net metering but are receiving compensation in some other way?

- A. (Toscano) We think that this -- this could be explored over the next couple of years as part of the collection effort stabling process proposed in the Settlement Agreement.
- A. (Nixon) Elizabeth Nixon.

1		Could I also add to that? I think
2		there are others now that are currently under the
3		ISO wholesale rate that are switching to net
4		metering. So they are getting other compensation
5		in, as well as some of the net metering
6		customers, also (indiscernible) generators, but
7		they're getting additional compensation.
8	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning. Thank you.
9		And I just want to end with, at this
10		time would the Department be comfortable with any
11		legacy period other than the current one that
12		ends in 2040?
13	Α.	(Nixon) I think this was Liz Nixon.
14		As we've stated earlier, we think that
15		it makes sense to keep what is there now and
16		explore that in the future.
17	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning. Thank you.
18		And now I want to move on to the topic
19		of application fees. Have you reviewed the
20		settling parties' proposal on application fees?
21	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano. Yes.
22	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
23		And what is your position on the
	I	

1		settling parties' proposal?
2	Α.	(Toscano) As I mentioned earlier Mark Toscano
3		responding.
4		With the more developed proposal that
5		is included with the Settlement Agreement, we
6		support it.
7	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
8		And do you support the annual
9		reconciling mechanism for application fees that
10		was described in the Settlement Agreement and
11		further explained by the settling parties in
12		their testimony on Tuesday?
13	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano. Yes.
14	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
15		And in your testimony, I believe
16		or perhaps it didn't come up. I can't remember,
17		to be honest. Do you have any concerns about
18		double counting with the application fee
19		proposal?
20	Α.	Mark Toscano responding.
21		We had concerns in the beginning, and
22		there's been a lot of development since. We
23		believe utilities will do their best efforts to

provide transparency. However, the utilities need to ensure that they're tracking everything appropriately. If some parts are not compensated elsewhere, then there's all of this. We've all just seen, there's a lot of different places that things show up.

So the Department will continue to work with the utilities to identify any necessary (indiscernible).

Q. Alexandra Ladwig questioning.

2.3

A question about your TOU rates. So in your testimony, you recommended that net metering customers could be put on time-of-use rates, if available. Is that still your recommendations?

A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.

Yes. Existing utility rates can be applied now under NEM 2.0. Then the current compensation -- compensation structure would apply to that. So for the smaller -- 100 percent of the energy -- 100 percent, excuse me, 25 percent, for the smaller generator, as I mentioned, or just 80 for the larger.

1 Liz Nixon. Α. (Nixon) 2 I just want to add to that. I believe 3 that there actually are existing NEM customers under TOU rates, at least under -- in Liberty's 4 I'm not sure about others. 5 territory. there are existing TOU customers. 6 7 Alexandra Ladwig questioning. Q. 8 As it relates to further study that 9 was recommended in the Settlement Agreement and 10 that you use in your testimony, the Settlement 11 Agreement recommends undertaking a data 12 collection effort as part of developing proposed 13 net metering time-of-use rates. What is the 14 Department's position on the data collection 15 effort that's described in the Settlement 16 Agreement? 17 Α. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding. 18 We support it. 19 Q. Alexandra Ladwig questioning. 20 And the Settlement Agreement and the

settling parties' testimony on Tuesday proposed that the data collection effort via stakeholder process that includes the Department of Energy, AVICORE Reporting & Video

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1		or at least that the Department would be welcome
2		to participate in it, do you have a petition
3		sorry, position on the Department being involved
4		in any data collection effort that may take place
5		following this proceeding?
6	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano.
7		Yes, we would like to be involved
8		(indiscernible).
9	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
10		So just to sum up, if the Commission
11		were to adopt the Department's recommendations as
12		described in testimony and further explained
13		today, would there be any change to the net
14		metering tariff itself coming out of this
15		proceeding?
16	A.	(Nixon) Yes. Our understanding is the tariff
17		would need to cover the 1 to 5 megawatt category,
18		normally the (indiscernible).
19	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
20		And that 1 to 5 megawatts, though,
21		would be the same compensation structure that
22		exists currently for larger customer
23		generators?

1	Α.	(Nixon) Yes. That's what we're proposing.
2	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
3		And so what we refer to as the
4		alternative NEM metering or NEM 2.0 that's
5		currently in place, if the Commission adopts your
6		recommendations, NEM 2.0 would still stay in
7		place following this proceeding?
8	Α.	(Nixon) Liz Nixon. Yes.
9	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
10		And, finally, could you please
11		summarize what the Department recommends for next
12		steps following this proceeding?
13	Α.	(Toscano) Toscano responding.
14		Yes. The stakeholder group would be
15		determined, I believe, if necessary necessary
16		to help determine premium rates and the cost
17		portion of storage.
18	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
19		And that is all the Department has on
20		direct. The witnesses are available for
21		cross-examination.
22		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Thank you.
23		We'll start cross-examination with CPCNH.

## 1 CROSS-EXAMINATION 2 BY MS. MANZELLI: Thank you. Good morning. My name is Amy 3 Q. Manzelli for the Coalition. 4 I have some general questions for whoever in the witness panel would 5 like to answer. 6 7 Just to clarify some of your direct 8 testimony, referring to, I believe, Exhibit 7, 9 just make sure here. 10 It is your testimony, correct, Yeah. 11 that net metering compensation based on time-of-use rates would -- and I'm quoting from 12 13 your testimony -- encourage systems that provide 14 more benefits to the distribution and 15 transmission systems. 16 That is your testimony, correct? line -- page 13, line 7, if you want to reference 17 your testimony. 18 19 Α. (Toscano) Yeah. Mark Toscano responding. 20 I just want to make sure we've got the 21 correct reference. 22 Q. Yeah. 2.3 (Toscano) Line 13 on page --Α.

- 1 Q. Seven -- I'm sorry. Opposite. Page 13, line 7.
- 2 A. (Toscano) Yes. Yes. That's correct.
- 3 Q. Thank you. In sticking with page 13, moving down
- 4 to line 8, you note, quote: The VDER study
- 5 highlights a number -- that a number of
- 6 system-wide avoided cost values are time varying.
- 7 Right?

9

- 8 A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano. Correct.
  - Q. Okay. And this is Amy Manzelli questioning.
- 10 And moving down, also on page 13,
- 11 getting down to line 19, you also testified,
- 12 | right, that, "DG systems with batteries could
- potentially provide more benefits and flexibility
- 14 by providing generation during varying beneficial
- 15 time periods."
- 16 A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.
- 17 That's correct.
- 18 Q. Thank you. Now, moving on to the Settlement
- 19 Agreement. Obviously, you testified, but just to
- 20 contextualize my following questions, the
- 21 | Settlement Agreement requires development of a
- 22 | new time-of-use proposal, right?
- 23 A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano. Yes.

- Q. Okay. Amy Manzelli questioning.
- Is there anything in the Settlement

  Agreement that requires a new tariff to be

  approved that incorporates a time-of-use rate?
  - A. (Nixon) Liz Nixon.

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I don't believe in the settlement,

but -- I don't have it here for reference, but I

believe that there's something, either in the

rules or the statute, that they require approval

(indiscernible) time of use. (Indiscernible.) I

don't have that in front of me.

- Q. Okay. So --
- 13 A. (Nixon) I just remember there was a docket when
  14 Liberty was asked to have a system rule change
  15 TOU.
  - Q. Okay. But my question is, looking at this

    Settlement Agreement here, Exhibit 1, it requires
    the development of a proposal for time-of-use
    rates, but does it require a tariff that approves
    that time-of-use proposal or any time-of-use
    proposal?
- 22 A. (Nixon) Liz Nixon.
- I guess I'm not clear in your

1		question. I mean, I think that it would be
2		helpful to have any compensation rates in the
3		tariff. Again, I'm not sure legally what's
4		required, but to have the compensation rates in
5		the tariff is helpful.
6	Q.	I guess what I'm getting at is: Is it possible
7		that if this Settlement Agreement were approved
8		and if the time-of-use proposal were made, it
9		might not be approved; is that possible under
10		this Settlement Agreement?
11	Α.	(Nixon) Liz Nixon.
12		I presume that's possible.
13	Q.	And in that vein, Mr. Toscano in my
14		questioning, Mr. Toscano especially, you've made
15		several statements today that, you know, things
16		will definitely be changing in the future, and
17		that's part of the rationale why for example,
18		maintaining the legacy period to 2040.
19		Can you, in fact, testify with
20		certainty that it net metering rates are
21		definitely going to change in the future?
22	A.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano.
23		I'm not in a position to say what

- would definitely be done. We are confident, and
  I believe everybody, in all we've heard, that we
  are supportive of time-varying rates and other
  structures. So I don't see any reason why they
  would, but I'm in no position to say
  definitively.
- 7 Q. Okay. And again, it's possible that they won't?
- 8 A. (Toscano) It's possible.
- 9 Q. Changing topics here, and I think these questions
  10 are for you, Ms. Nixon, or Mr. Toscano. I have
  11 some questions about the Unitil Kingston solar
  12 project in Docket 22-073. You're both familiar
  13 with this docket?
- 14 A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano. I am.
- 15 A. (Nixon) Somewhat. It's been a while since I've visited it.
- 17 Q. Okay. Understood. In this instance -- and this is Amy Manzelli questioning.
- You both provided testimony in the docket?
- 21 A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano. Yes.
- 22 A. (Nixon) Liz Nixon. Yes.
- 23 Q. Now, I have a copy of -- a copy of your testimony

1		in that docket, if it's going to help to refresh
2		your memory. Would you agree that the basis of
3		the value of energy there was the ISO New England
4		energy rate futures? Do you recall that?
5	А.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano. Yes, I do.
6	Q.	And do you recall that the testimony in that case
7		was that even then, those estimates were
8		reasonable and probably conservative?
9	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.
10		Generally speaking, yes.
11	Q.	And do you recall that Unitil based the local
12		transmission cost benefits on the local network
13		service rate?
14	А.	(Toscano) Toscano. Yes, I do.
15	Q.	And the ancillary service charge were based on a
16		recent bill from Eversource Energy, which is
17		Unitil's transmission service provider?
18	А.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano. That is correct.
19	Q.	And I apologize. This is Amy Manzelli
20		questioning.
21		Do you recall Unitil based the
22		regional transmission rates on the regional
23		network service and excuse me, and open access

- transmission tariff rates? 1 2 Α. (Toscano) Mark Toscano. Do you recall there was testimony that the 3 Q. 4 Department believed that these assumptions were reasonable? 5 (Toscano) Mark Toscano. 6 Α. Yes. 7 And do you recall there was testimony that there Q. 8 was agreement that the Department signed on to 9 the joint letter supporting approval of the 10 petition counting credit for projected avoided 11 transmission costs? 12 Α. (Toscano) Subject to check, I believe that would 13 be correct, yes. 14 This is Amy Manzelli questioning. Ο. Thank you. 15 And finally, on this line of 16 questioning. Do you recall that included support for the project as presented in the company's 17 18 direct and supplemental filings without modification or conditions? 19 20 (Toscano) Mark Toscano. Yes, correct. Α.
- Q. Thank you. Now, I think these questions would be best directed to you, Ms. Nixon.
- 23 Are you familiar with Liberty

1		Utility's Battery Storage pilot from Docket
2		17-189?
3	Α.	(Nixon) I am, but I think others on the panel
4		are as well. Liz Nixon responding.
5	Q.	Sure. Thank you for that. I wasn't aware of
6		that. And this is Amy Manzelli questioning.
7		Are you familiar with the November
8		2022 Guidehouse Interim Valuation Report prepared
9		for Liberty?
10	Α.	(Nixon) Liz Nixon responding.
11		Again, I'm aware of it, but it's not
12		something I reviewed recently.
13	Q.	Understood. And I have a copy of that if we need
14		to reference that, so just let me know. But I'll
15		ask you if you recall certain things, and you can
16		certainly let me know if you do not.
17		Do you recall that during Phase 1
18		that this report stated that during Phase 1, the
19		average monthly coincident peak performance was
20		79 percent and that exceeded the target of 75
21		percent?
22	Α.	(Nixon) Honestly, I have not looked at that
23		recently, so I can't recall any specific data

1		from that.
2	Q.	Yeah, that's absolutely fine. I this is Amy
3		Manzelli. I can imagine, were I in your shoes, I
4		would not recall those numbers either.
5		MS. MANZELLI: Let me ask the
6		Commission's permission to approach the witness
7		to provide a copy of the report.
8		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Yes, please.
9		MS. LADWIG: Commissioners, if we
10		if it's possible to provide a copy of the report
11		to others in the room as well, I think that would
12		be helpful.
13		MS. MANZELLI: We can almost do that.
14		I reported I provided Amy Manzelli
15		speaking. I provided a full copy of the report
16		to the witness. I believe what we have for the
17		rest of the room is copies of the excerpts that
18		I'm going to be speaking of, so a cover page and
19		then all of my questions regarding page 4. So I
20		think we have copies of page 4 for the rest of
21		the room.
22		MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig. Thank
23		you.

1	Is there a link to a docket or
2	anything that would have the full report either?
3	MS. MANZELLI: Yeah, absolutely. It
4	will be excuse me, Amy Manzelli speaking.
5	It will be in the virtual file room
6	for Docket 17-189. The report is totally
7	available.
8	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Do you have a
9	tab a tab number?
10	MS. MANZELLI: I do not, but I will be
11	able to provide that on the record after the next
12	break, or if the Commission wishes to recess, I
13	can certainly grab that real quick.
14	MR. SHEEHAN: Mr. Chairman, Mike
15	Sheehan speaking. It is the very last tab in
16	that docket, 22.
17	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you.
18	MS. MANZELLI: With the Commission's
19	leave, I'm just going to wait until everybody has
20	a copy. Would the Commissioners like a paper
21	copy?
22	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: No, I think we'll
23	use the tab, but just give us a moment to get

1		there.
2		Mr. Sheehan, could you could you
3		share that tab number again?
4		MR. SHEEHAN: Again, it is the very
5		last item on the sheet. It's Exhibit 22.
6		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: So it's it's
7		under Exhibits. I was just I was looking at
8		tabs. It's under Exhibits, and it's marked as
9		22.
10		Okay. Are you there, Commissioner
11		Chattopadhyay, or do you need more time?
12		CMSR: CHATTOPADHYAY: Okay.
13		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Please
14		proceed.
15		MS. MANZELLI: Thank you.
16		BY MS. MANZELLI:
17	Q.	And I apologize. My page reference in my
18		examination notes was mistaken. I'm going to
19		call everyone's attention to native document page
20		9, Bates stamp page 10. In the room's copy, the
21		text is highlighted, but the text of interest is
22		Section 2.1, Coincident Peak Demand Impacts.
23		And my question is: Does this report

1		state that during Phase 1, the average monthly
2		coincident peak performance was 79 percent, and
3		the annual coincident peak performance was 81
4		percent, and that both of those exceeded the
5		target, which was 75 percent?
6	Α.	(Nixon) Nixon. That's what the report says.
7	Q.	Thank you. And does the report also say that, on
8		average, participants reduced their monthly bills
9		by 33 percent or the equivalent of \$60?
10	А.	(Nixon) Liz Nixon.
11		Could you provide a reference to that?
12		I don't see a rate or reference for it.
13	Q.	Yes, I can. Just give me a moment.
14		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Attorney Manzelli,
15		a couple of things. If you could move from the
16		microphone just a little bit. We're having a
17		hard time picking you up, and
18		MS. MANZELLI: Yeah, I'm clearly
19		yes, I will. Amy Manzelli speaking. I'm clearly
20		traumatized from the microphone not usually
21		working yesterday.
22		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: It's it's hard
23		to get it right in this room.
	1	

1 And then secondly, Attorney 2 Manzelli -- this is Commissioner Goldner. 3 I just want to understand the point of the line of questioning. Like, if you could just 4 kind of share where you're going, that would be 5 helpful. 6 7 MS. MANZELLI: Sure. The point of the 8 line of questioning is that information and techniques available to develop net metering 9 10 exist today and are successful, doable, realistic 11 and efficient, and that supports the positions that we've put forward in direct testimony and 12 13 will be putting forward in the following panel. 14 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okav. Please 15 proceed. 16 BY MS. MANZELLI: 17 Ο. Apologies for flopping on the page reference It's native page 17, Bates stamp 18. 18 19 you want to be drawing your attention to Section 20 2.3, Bill Savings. 21 And just to refresh the question. The 22 question is: Does this report state that, on 23 average, participants reduced their monthly bills

1 by 33 percent or \$60? 2 Α. Again, I see the words on the page of the report as well. And I'm not commenting any 3 further on that because, again, I haven't looked 4 at this report for a long time. 5 When the Department was actively 6 Q. Thank you. 7 working with this report, though, the Department 8 didn't have any reason to, you know, doubt this 9 report? 10 Mark Toscano responding. Α. (Toscano) 11 I spent a bit of time looking at that 12 report, and there was no reason to doubt the 13 report, and the report was fairly robust. 14 I will comment that, by simply 15 changing the battery degradation rate from 80 16 percent, which was the assumption used, to 70 percent, which is listed on the -- which was 17 listed on the -- the website, changed the benefit 18 19 cost value to 0.897. 20 So -- my point simply is that, yes, 21 the report is accurate, but when I looked at it, 22 it was right on the edge, depending on which assumptions that you use. And that's true in any 23

1		valuation that one does.
2	Q.	Understood. Thank you for the elaboration.
3		(Brief pause.)
4		MS. MANZELLI: All right. Amy
5		Manzelli speaking. Thank you to the panel. I
6		have no further questions.
7		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Thank you.
8		We'll move now to the joint parties for
9		cross-examination.
10		CROSS-EXAMINATION
11		BY MS. CHIAVARA:
12	Q.	Thank you. Jessica Chiavara. I have just a
13		couple of clarifying question. This should only
14		take a couple of minutes.
15		The first is for Ms. Nixon. You
16		mentioned that net metered customers can
17		supplement revenue using or supplement the
18		compensation using ISO New England revenue. And
19		it's it my understanding, I believe
20		Eversource witnesses have testified in their
21		direct testimony that that is not possible, which
22		is why Eversource collects that revenue and
23		applies it to to decrease the costs of net

metering.

2.3

Would -- did you misspeak with that,

or -- or do you want to clarify that topic?

A. (Nixon) Liz Nixon. Yes, I'll clarify.

The ones that I'm aware of are the settlement-only generators that actually say -- that I'm aware that Eversource does receive that revenue, as many other utilities do. But it's not for every unit, but -- or every system. But, yes, that revenue does go to the utility, that I'm aware of, not to the customer. But I don't know every customer out there, so that's my understanding, like you stated.

O. Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

And then the second question, I guess, would be for everyone. To the extent, I believe, Mr. Toscano mentioned that we'd all be back here in a couple of years when the utilities file their net metered time-of-use rates, given that that's two years going, which isn't a terribly long time, at which point we could revisit the legacy period and its efficacy or what kind of expansion that it's created.

To the extent that the DOE believes that the legacy period is an expansion, isn't it a fairly discrete and pretty limited expansion, since it would only apply to projects that newly net meter in -- over the course of the next two years until the legacy period would be revisited?

A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.

It is true that it is a discrete period, and it would be a limited number. But our observation over the last few years, recently in particular, with the 1 to 5 change, we're seeing a number of larger systems come online, and because of the 20-year time period being so -- being so long, we're not -- we haven't done the evaluation on it yet, but we had a little bit of concern that we'd be locking in people to things that may or may not be ideal. So that was the impression.

Q. And -- I'm sorry.

2.3

20 A. (Nixon) Liz Nixon.

Just adding, just, to Mark. As

Mr. Toscano said, units coming online. It's also

units shifting from the wholesale market to the

net metering market. It's not just the new ones,

so --

- Q. Right. Just that newly begin net metering?
- 4 A. (Nixon) Yeah, so -- yeah.

5 | Q. And -- sorry. Jessica Chiavara.

And you mention -- referenced the

20-year period, but really, this 20-year period

is just a -- like about a five-year extension

from the existing date, correct? So we're not

talking about an additional 20 years.

- A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano. That is correct.
- Q. And then the other item is just sort of a cleanup clarifying item. Some -- I believe you -- the panel mentioned that the settlement does not address 1 to 5 megawatt projects, but I want to call your attention to the bottom of page 2 in Exhibit 1, where it states that, "Electric utilities shall continue to apply the large customer tariff terms to projects from 1 to 5 megawatts as approved in Order 26,029, as projects of this size are limited to municipal hosts, and there's no evidence of unjust or unreasonable costs for such projects."

1		Would you say that that covers
2		projects from 1 to 5 megawatts?
3	Α.	(Nixon) Liz Nixon responding.
4		Yes, it does. And I think that
5		what maybe I'm not sure what you're referring
6		to, but we were thinking the current tariff does
7		not address it
8	Q.	Oh, okay.
9	Α.	not the settlement necessarily.
10	Q.	Oh, okay. Thank you very much. That's
11		MS. CHIAVARA: Jessica Chiavara.
12		That's all I have. I believe there are other
13		settling parties that may have questions for the
14		panel.
15		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Anyone else
16		from the settling parties have any questions for
17		the oh, Attorney Krakoff, would you like to
18		begin?
19		MR. KRAKOFF: Yes, thank you.
20		CROSS-EXAMINATION
21		BY MR. KRAKOFF:
22	Q.	Attorney Krakoff for Conservation Law Foundation.
23		My first line of questioning is about,

1		you know, ways some of this with respect to
2		the scope of the VDER study. And, you know,
3		thank you for clarifying that it was really
4		Order No. 26,316 that's in that scope.
5		And so you said that that scope was
6		developed through the stakeholder process, right?
7	А.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. That's correct.
8	Q.	And that that involved a lot of parties in
9		this room, right, in that stakeholder process?
10	Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. Yes.
11	Q.	Again, Nick Krakoff, Conservation Law Foundation.
12		And what was then Commission staff at
13		the time, they issued an RFP for the study,
14		correct?
15	Α.	(Perruccio) Correct. Deandra Perruccio.
16	Q.	Okay. Nick Krakoff again.
17		Now, the Commission, they approved the
18		scope of that study, right?
19	Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. Yes, that is
20		correct.
21	Q.	And, you know, if there had been certain things
22		that the Commission had wanted the you know,
23		the report to look into, they could have included

1		that in their order approving the scope of the
2		study, correct?
3	А.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. Yes.
4	Q.	So Nick Krakoff again.
5		So had they wanted to you know, the
6		study to look at different analyses or conduct
7		different cost/benefit analyses or different rate
8		rate and bill impact analysis, they could have
9		specified that in their order, correct?
10	А.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. Yes.
11	Q.	Then the other day again, Nick Krakoff.
12		Sorry.
13		The other day I asked a few questions
14		of Dunsky about the environmental externalities
15		sensitivity included in the analysis, and I guess
16		that was also included in the in the order
17		approving the scope, correct, that requirement?
18	А.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio.
19		Yes, I believe the study scope
20		approval order did direct that the environmental
21		externalities be included as the sensitivities.
22	Q.	Now, would it be fair to say that that that
23		that requirement to study the environmental

1		externalities sensitivity was related or based on
2		RSA 362-A:1, which includes the purposes and
3		objectives of net metering for New Hampshire?
4	Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio.
5		I would have to look at the Commission
6		analysis as to why they decided to include the
7		scope to include the externalities in the
8		scope.
9	Q.	Okay. Fair enough.
10		And if you recall, wasn't the
11		intention sorry, Nick Krakoff again. This is
12		awkward.
13		Wasn't the intention for the study to
14		inform the development of future rates by the
15		Commission?
16	Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. Yes, that's
17		correct.
18	Q.	Thanks. Nick Krakoff again.
19		Shifting gears a little bit, just to
20		some of your testimony about the legacy period.
21		When when Order 26029 was approved
22		by the Commission, at that time, the legacy
23		period lasts for 23 years, correct?

- 1 A. (Perruccio) I believe that is correct. Deandra
  2 Perruccio.
  - Q. Because the order went into effect in 2017, and, you know, from then it was 24 years -- 23 years, correct?
- 6 A. (Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. That's correct.
- Q. Nick Krakoff. Were a party -- sorry. Were a net meter to interconnect today in 2024, that would be a 16-year legacy period, right?
- 10 A. (Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. That's correct.
- 11 Q. Nick Krakoff again.

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- So, you know, with the qualification
  that we don't know what's going to happen after
  2040, we don't know what the rates will be after
  2040 for net meterers, but couldn't -- couldn't
  somebody that interconnects in 2024 be worse off
  than somebody that interconnected earlier than
  that period?
  - A. (Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio.
- Without knowing what future tariffs
  may be, I don't think I could say that with
  certainty.
- 23 | Q. But isn't it -- again, Nick Krakoff.

1		But isn't it possible that, were net
2		metering tariffs to change after 2040, that
3		somebody that connects today could be in a worse
4		position than somebody that connected a year or
5		two ago?
6	Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio.
7		It could be worse. It could be
8		better. I think there's uncertainty
9		additional uncertainty in there.
10	Q.	So you would Nick Krakoff.
11		You'd agree that having a continually
12		decreasing legacy period creates uncertainty for
13		interconnectors?
14	Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. Yes.
15		MR. KRAKOFF: Okay. Thank you. No
16		further questions.
17		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Mr. Evans-Brown, do
18		you have some questions?
19		MR. EVANS-BROWN: A couple. Sam
20		Evans-Brown speaking.
21		Mr. Krakoff did address several of the
22		issues that I was hoping to narrow in on, so let
23		me just go through and determine where to start.

1		CROSS-EXAMINATION
2		BY MR. EVANS-BROWN:
3	Q.	So maybe I'll start here. This is Sam
4		Evans-Brown speaking.
5		Are you familiar with the content of
6		Order No. 26,221 issued on February 21st, 2019,
7		in the last net metering docket? This is an
8		order approving the scope and timeline of the
9		VDER study.
10	Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio.
11		Somewhat familiar, although I have not
12		looked at that in quite a while, yeah.
13	Q.	Sam Evans-Brown questioning.
14		Would you believe me if I told you
15		that the original timeline of the VDER study was
16		that it was to be completed in calendar year
17		2020?
18	Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio.
19		That is entirely possible.
20	Q.	Sam Evans-Brown questioning.
21		Are you fully confident that the
22		two-year timeline laid out in the Settlement
23		Agreement for proposing new time-of-use tariffs

1		will be met on schedule?
2	Α.	(Nixon) Liz Nixon responding.
3		I can't guarantee anything. Our hope
4		is it will be a short period, but I can't
5		guarantee any timeline.
6	Q.	Sam Evans-Brown questioning.
7		Would you believe me if I told you
8		that this is an additional source of uncertainty
9		in the VDER marketplace that makes it difficult
10		to finance projects?
11	Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. That sounds
12		reasonable.
13	Q.	Okay. Sam Evans-Brown speaking.
14		This is for Mr. Toscano. You stated
15		in your your one of your responses to one
16		of the previous questions that you you say
17		it's highly unlikely that net metering will end
18		in 2040.
19		What's the basis for that statement?
20	Α.	(Toscano) Toscano responding.
21		Simply that net metering and these
22		systems, as you know, continue to grow in
23		popularity across the country. There's no

rational reason to believe that it would happen, and that's an opinion online on my part, of course, but it's -- I doubt there's anybody here that would believe that it would go away.

A. (Nixon) And Liz Nixon.

2.3

I just want to add to your previous question. As I've stated earlier today, customer generator can, with approval, switch to TOU now, and utilities are proposing new and revised TOU rates in recent dockets. So with the lack of a specific net metering docket, I mean, I think that customer -- in our opinion, customer generators could request to be moved to those existing TOU rates if they're beneficial. Those that -- the timeline of a new docket isn't limiting in and of itself.

Q. Sam Evans-Brown questioning.

I actually would love to have that verified by the utilities, because my experience as a Unitil customer who net meters is that I asked to be moved to a TOU rate, and I was told they are not able to do so, as recently as a year ago.

1		So being a point of order, I am not
2		100 percent sure if it's the right moment to ask
3		that question, but something I would like to
4		raise at a later point.
5	Α.	(Nixon) Liz Nixon.
6		I just want to add. I mean, I'd have
7		to look at the the rules and the law, but I
8		know that there I can recall I don't have
9		the docket number offhand, but there was a
10		Liberty docket in which customer generators were
11		moved to a TOU rate, so I can get that for you.
12	Q.	So maybe it's something we could resolve later?
13	Α.	(Nixon) Yes.
14	Q.	Sam Evans-Brown questioning.
15		In one of your responses, you stated
16		that generators should be able to receive
17		compensation for wholesale markets in 2040.
18		Do you have any data as to what the
19		LMP for the New Hampshire node in the ISO New
20		England markets will be in 2040?
21	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.
22		You know, if I could do that, I
23		wouldn't be up here now.

1	Q.	Sam Evans-Brown questioning.
	χ.	
2		Are you aware of the fact that ISO New
3		England's wholesale markets have only been in
4		existence for 25 years?
5	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano. Yes, I am.
6	Q.	Sam Evans-Brown questioning.
7		Are you aware of how often ISO New
8		England makes changes to its market design?
9	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano.
10		No, I am not aware of how often that
11		occurs.
12	Q.	Sam Evans-Brown questioning.
13		Would you believe me if I told you
14		that lenders often also do not know the answers
15		to any of those questions and are unwilling to
16		put capital at risk based on the assumptions
17		embedded in your statements previously?
18	A.	(Toscano) Could you could you restate that,
19		please?
20	Q.	Sure. Would you believe me if I told you that
21		lenders also do not know the answers to these
22		previous questions and are unwilling to put
23		capital at risk based on the assumptions embedded
	I	

1		in some of your answers?
2		MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig
3		questioning.
4		I would just object, because it seems
5		like Attorney Evans-Brown is testifying in these
6		questions.
7		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Mr. Evans-Brown, if
8		you could restate your question.
9		BY MR. EVANS-BROWN:
10	Q.	I guess if you'd like, I can go to the next.
11		Last question, and I will say I
12		appreciate the the raise, but I am not an
13		attorney, so I will cop to that.
14		My last question here, I think.
15		Mr. Toscano, am I correct that you previously
16		stated, in response to Attorney Manzelli, that
17		the Department has not done any analysis to
18		support its position that a 20-year legacy period
19		is unjust or unreasonable?
20	Α.	(Toscano) We did not do a an analysis per se.
21		There was not a lot of information to base that
22		analysis on. It should have been "an" analysis
23		on.

1		MR. EVANS-BROWN: Thank you. No
2		further questions.
3		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Any other questions
4		from the joint parties in cross before we to
5		Commissioner questions?
6		Okay. Seeing none, we'll begin
7		Commissioner questions with Commissioner
8		Chattopadhyay.
9		BY CMSR: CHATTOPADHYAY:
10	Q.	Commissioner Chattopadhyay. Good morning.
11		I'm going to first get some
12		clarification on the 1 megawatt to 5 megawatt
13		discussions that have happened. In the I'm
14		going to go there. Just a moment.
15		In the settlement document this was
16		discussed as to why, "The electric utilities
17		shall continue to apply the large customer tariff
18		terms to projects from 1 to 5 megawatts as
19		approved in Order No. 26,029."
20		This appears in Bates page 2 at the
21		end. "As projects of this size are limited to
22		municipal hosts, and there is no evidence of
23		unjust or unreasonable cost for such projects."
	I	

1		My I'm just curious. Are there
2		projects from 1 to 5 megawatts out there that are
3		not municipal hosts, not you know, or limited
4		to municipal hosts?
5	A.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio.
6		The current statute only allows 1 to 5
7		megawatt systems to net meter if they are
8		eligible as municipal group hosts.
9	Q.	Thank you. So in the tariff for example, I'm
10		looking at the Eversource tariff, and this is
11		general, so I don't need to specify anything.
12		Right now, is there any provisions for
13		1 to 5 megawatts in the tariff? And I think you
14		said no.
15	A.	(Nixon) Liz Nixon.
16		I was the one that said that earlier.
17	Q.	Yes.
18	A.	(Nixon) My understanding again, I'd have
19		to to to look at where you're looking, I'd
20		have to verify. But my understanding is 1 to 5
21		is not included in the tariff. I would need more
22		information.
0.0	_	

(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio.

23

A.

I'm less familiar with the tariffs 1 2 themselves. But, yeah, my understanding is they're not -- it's not explicitly addressed in 3 the tariff. It would come under the large 4 customer generator, anything that's addressing 5 them, is my understanding. 6 7 So this statutory requirement that applies to Q. 8 municipal hosts, does it reside in any --9 anywhere as a tariff or -- we're just trying to 10 understand that. 11 (Nixon) Again, I'd have to pull up the law and Α. 12 the tariff and everything, but my understanding is it references the large customer generator 13 14 compensation and says to compensate them at that 15 And the large customer compensation rate, 16 I believe, is in this tariff, but not -- it doesn't specifically mention 1 to 5. Again, I'd 17 have to check all of that. This is listening, 18 19 so --20 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: If I could jump in, 21 Commissioner Chattopadhyay. This is Commissioner 22 Goldner. This is one of the items at the 2.3

1 prehearing conference -- pardon me -- that we 2 were confused about as a Commission, and we're still confused. 3 So we can certainly brief it. And we 4 would request that briefing from the parties, 5 because what is included and what's not included 6 7 in 1 to 5, both in the statute and in the tariff, and in the -- in the joint parties' settlement, 8 we're -- we're struggling with. So -- and I 9 10 don't think I'm any clearer to -- right now than 11 I was yesterday. 12 So I guess my question -- I'll look at Attorney Ladwig and Attorney Chiavara, if you 13 have a recommendation on how to -- to close this 14 15 out, because we're -- we're confused. 16 MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig 17 speaking. 18 Acknowledging it is confusing, because there are multiple cross-references in the 19 statute, so there's no statute that clearly says 20 21 this is what a municipal host is. 22 Well, there is, but then you have to cross-reference the definition for that and 2.3

1 what's included and what the compensation is. 2 I believe it's all in statute, but you just have to do some cross-referencing to figure out what 3 4 it is. And then I'm not sure what's in the 5 utility tariff, so I would probably let the 6 7 utilities answer what's laid out in the tariff. MS. CHIAVARA: Jessica Chiavara. 8 9 I -- I believe Attorney Ladwig is 10 correct, in that it is all spelled out in 11 statute. And currently, I believe, the most 12 recent addition to the statute says that the 13 Commission should consider whether there should 14 be expansion for projects over 1 megawatt. So I 15 believe it's an open question. 16 And the settling parties have done They have considered it. And at 17 that review. the bottom of page 2 on Exhibit 1, they have made 18 their recommendation regarding projects from 1 to 19 So we believe that the settling 20 5 megawatts. 21 parties have made an answer to that. 22 As to the utility tariffs, I believe 23 there is a mention that projects from 1 to 5

1	megawatts must be municipal group hosts to
2	qualify for credits.
3	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: So I just want to
4	repeat that back and make sure that Commissioner
5	Chattopadhyay has a chance to close with this on
6	the witnesses.
7	I believe that the position from the
8	joint parties is that from 1 to 5 megawatts,
9	those participants should get the net metering
10	rate if they're if, and only if, they're a
11	municipal host.
12	MS. CHIAVARA: Correct.
13	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: And does the
14	Department I'll look at Attorney Ladwig
15	agree with that? Does the Department agree with
16	that recommendation?
17	MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig. Yes.
18	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: And so the issue is
19	that when the Commission issues an order, the
20	request is that we that we address the
21	specific issue so that the utilities can put it
22	in their tariff?
23	MS. CHIAVARA: Yes, I believe that

1		direction would be helpful.
2		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Attorney
3		Ladwig?
4		MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig.
5		I agree.
6		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. And this was
7		Commissioner Goldner asking the questions.
8		Okay. Commissioner Chattopadhyay,
9		hopefully that helps our line of questioning.
10		I'll turn it back over to you.
11		BY CMSR. CHATTOPADHYAY:
12	Q.	Commissioner Chattopadhyay. I think it helped,
13		but, again, I'll maybe get a confirmation.
14		So really, when DOE is saying that the
15		tariff, as it is, for 1 to 5 megawatts should
16		continue, that is in agreement with what the
17		settlement has?
18	Α.	(Nixon) Liz Nixon. Yes.
19	Q.	Okay. I wanted to get that confirmation.
20	Α.	(Nixon) I'll just elaborate more. That for
21		it's for the large the municipal host would
22		get the large customer generator compensation,
23		which is energy at this point.

Q. Yeah, I think that's helpful at this point, to make sure both are on the same page, meaning the joint utilities and the DOE.

2.3

To me, the -- obviously, I'm looking at other stuff, and I have other dockets to worry about. So as I was looking at it, it wasn't very clear whether there was -- whether the DOE was saying that we believe it should be part of the tariff and that includes, not just municipal hosts, but others.

So I have now clarification that you're still talking about the municipal hosts as far as the tariff is concerned, because you assume that's there, and that's what you were talking about?

- A. (Nixon) Correct. Just municipal host. This is Liz Nixon, sorry.
- Q. So it is my understanding, then, that the joint utilities party -- sorry, you know, the settling parties, their positioning is different from the DOE's positioning on the grandfathering provisions or on legacy -- on the legacy period, correct?

A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano. Yes, that's correct.

2.3

Q. Okay. Any ratepayer that is interested in NEM comes to -- forward, whether it's up to 1 megawatt or whether it's for a municipal host greater than 1 megawatt, and they have to think about financing, right now. Let's say it's gonna happen through 2024, 2025. Your recommendation is the legacy period should continue to be what's in the tariff, which is 2040, and so it has fewer years, certainly, in terms of continuation of the tariff structure.

If we extend that to, let's say,

2046 -- just a hypothetical example here. So
essentially, you're sort of trying to ensure that
the financial risks are less for those NEM
customers.

Do you think that is always the right thing to do? Is it possible that -- why should -- why should the financial risk be the other rates that -- other ratepayers' problem?

I just want to get a sense of what

your opinion is on that issue.

A. (Nixon) This is Liz Nixon.

I guess I don't understand how that would translate to the other ratepayers. I don't understand how you're translating that.

- Q. Because that would keep the rate structure in place for a longer period, and you might find that the rate structure for those extra years -- you're talking 20 years into the future. It may not be the right rate structure as far as what is just and reasonable. That's -- that's -- that's my question.
- A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.

2.3

That's really the essence of not locking in now, because in at least -- I'll speak on behalf of myself, and I believe it's among all of us, and that is, the only thing I've heard, if we develop these rates correctly, there will be more opportunity to increase revenue with the new structure.

So I'm not quite sure how that answers your -- your question of then do we develop -- we didn't see any point in locking things in when we're -- really, everybody agrees that we want to develop something like -- some new structure.

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Q. Understood. But I agree that your confirmation, basically -- you're not precisely attributing the -- the reasons why you didn't accept the -- you know, the settlement position on legacy period. But, you know, we sort of just started off by stating that the financial risk, that is the essence in some places.

That's all I needed. Thank you. That's all I have.

## BY CHAIRMAN GOLDNER:

2.3

Q. Okay. I'll start with an opportunity to comment on the same question I asked yesterday, which is that -- maybe to, like, explain why this small generator tariff or rates for outgoing energy is different than large generators.

What's the Department's logic and their reasoning on that, that difference; in other words, between getting default service for large customers on outgoing energy versus default service plus transmission plus a quarter of distribution? What's the Department's position on why those are different?

A. (Nixon) Liz Nixon. I'll start.

1 At this point, we were just saying it 2 makes sense, according to the VDER study, to stay in the status quo, which is the way that it was 3 4 proposed before, and the VDER study supports that. Others want to elaborate more? 5 Yeah, could you? 6 Q. 7 (Toscano) I'm sorry. Mark Toscano responding. Α. 8 As you heard on Tuesday, the reality is they have different values, depending on where 9 10 they are in the system, right? So it does make 11 sense to get compensation levels -- that they 12 will vary based on where the system is and what 13 it does? 14 And for me, having been doing this 15 type of thing for a long time, we recognize that 16 there's a big value. But we also recognize there's a massive complexity to try and put the 17 systems in place that allow these things to 18 19 happen. Yes, you can do it on a smaller pilot 20 scale, as you've heard, get some customers to see

Ultimately, that's the goal, is to get to time and -- you know, (indiscernible) the

how it goes, meaning time-varying rates.

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price signal, as you heard, and to reflect the real value of that power.

Α.

(Toscano)

Right now, the capability doesn't exist on a large scale, at least to our knowledge, to my knowledge. But having the different compensation levels for different types of system or -- (indiscernible) makes sense, as you heard, because of the local system where the power needs to get -- it's more local, and the power gets absorbed locally.

So I think that's the reason for the support now. And, as Liz Nixon said, that's what the meter says, right now, what the current levels of penetration of solar.

- Q. Okay. So just to restate, the Department agrees with the joint parties' position on why those rates are different, being that the -- the small supplier is more distributed, more spread out, and the larger customer is more concentrated, and so the -- the benefit is higher for the -- the smaller customer. Did I rephrase that correctly?
- Essentially correct, although you

Toscano responding.

heard -- you know, there are other components of compensation that the larger folks would appreciate having value, that you heard. But in essence, yes.

Q. And so, just to follow up on that, what I heard yesterday was that for these large generators, any capital that the utility has to put in place to support those larger systems is paid for by the applicant.

For the residential ratepayer, the small customer, there's the assumption that there is no additional capital required, so there's no charges or no cost to the small customer for -- for -- for being on the net metering tariff.

A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.

That's how I understood everything as well. We can say that in some areas, because we're involved with some other things, that there are some utilities that, when a residential customer will decide to connect, they contribute to a transformer or some other contribution to increase the infrastructure somewhat. You're starting to see that. Not in this docket, just

1 for your --

- Q. Okay. So to repeat that back, if a residential solar customer goes on the system and -- and there is some kind of upgrade needed, that that residential customer would pay for that or would not pay for that today?
- 7 A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.

To my understanding, they do not pay for that now, but I'm not going to speak on behalf of utilities.

- Q. And is that something that would be locked in this two-year study and would than part of the study, or is that something that's not -- not a topic of discussion?
- A. (Toscano) It is part of an investigative and rulemaking proceeding that's going to start as a result of SB 391, that that's going to be looked at in great detail. It was looked at in the prior investigation that I referenced earlier. That would be 20 -- 22-001. So that -- that's going to be kicked off imminently, and those types of things will be looked at in great detail.

1	Α.	(Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio.
2		Just clarifying the costs. I believe
3		this residential scale, there are no initial
4		fees, and it's a simpler application. But I
5		believe if it triggers upgrades, like
6		transformers, things like that, depending on the
7		upgrade, the the customer generator is
8		required to pay for the upgrades to the system
9		beyond sort of the base level metering
10		replacement, is my understanding.
11		Again, I don't want to speak for each
12		utility, but that's my general understanding.
13	Q.	Thank you. Are any of the three of you
14		participating in either the Eversource or Liberty
15		rate cases?
16	Α.	(Nixon) Liz Nixon. Yes, both.
17	Q.	Both. That's that's me too. Me too.
18		So yeah, we heard Eversource
19		yesterday, you know, talk about this, when
20		additional capital is put in place and the
21		customer pays for it. We were just talking about
22		this, and and now I understand it more

completely, and I appreciate the explanation.

23

How does that show up in a rate case?

So the company has to purchase the capital. They have to do a lot of work in order to put these solar arrays on the system. It's charged back to the applicant, so -- for the most part. I know there's some exceptions, but it sounds like it's mostly charged back to the applicant.

How does it show up in a rate case?

The company has to -- has to purchase the capital, but then it -- then it get charged back to the -- to the applicant? How does that work in a rate case? How would it look to the Commission?

A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.

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I only heard a little bit about this in conversation with regard to the Eversource case this morning, so I'm not in a position to comment. But essentially, it -- depending on how they do it, it could be booked as revenue, or it could be booked as an asset; and then when it gets paid back, then it comes off the books.

But I -- it's a little outside my wheelhouse in that regard. But they're supposed

to be adjusted out with -- for instance, when the utility gets paid, it shows up. And then when they get paid back, that will -- it should be adjusted.

Liz Nixon adding. (Nixon) Α.

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Again, I'm not the expert on this subject area either, but my understanding is that there's some investment paperwork out there that we -- that we review, at least a select portion of them, and verify if they -- we think it's done appropriate or not, and we'll signal out whether we think things should be disallowed or not included as part of our testing.

Okay. Very good. I think the Commission, given O. this docket, is sensitized to the net metering transaction. transaction works. And so if that's something that the Department could help us with when we get to that point in the rate cases, that would be -- that would be appreciated. understanding the transaction was very helpful,

A. (Nixon) Liz Niz	xon.
--------------------	------

are coming.

- 2 Just to confirm, we are looking at it.
- Q. Okay. Okay. Thank you. I just didn't want to surprise you in the rate case that more questions
- 6 A. (Toscano) Can I add additional to that?
- 7 | Q. Yes.

A. So one of the things the application fees are supposed to do, when they're outlined and upgraded, is to help offset some of the costs for software-type things for processing some applications and things like that.

And how that gets reconciled, like I said, we will be moving into that; for instance, some of the front-end systems that the utilities are putting in place, PowerClear and things of that nature. So where those costs get accounted for, we are very much looking into.

- Q. Okay. What I understood that it meant their costs to cover were the people that the utilities need to provide to do the work, plus some of the software pieces; is that correct?
- 23 A. (Toscano) That's my understanding. Mark Toscano

1 speaking. Yes. 2 Q. Okay. Thank you. Yes. Commissioner Goldner 3 questioning. 4 Okay. Thank you. Okay. So I'll just ask this one last line of questioning, then we'll 5 take a break and wrap up with Commissioner 6 7 questions and then go to -- go to redirect. 8 So if the Commission were to approve 9 the joint parties' proposal, with the adjustment 10 as recommended by the Department, if that were 11 the outcome, would there be any Puc 900 rules 12 that would need to change? 13 (Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. Α. 14 Beyond the ones that already require 15 updating? I think no. It's part of the -- the 16 logic there is that it reduces all of the administrative, you know, costs and time to make 17 those changes, especially considering if it's 18 going to be revisited in a couple of years. 19 And if the -- if the Commission were to approve 20 Q. 21 the joint parties' settlement in its entirety,

would it require any changes to the 900 rules?

(Toscano) Mark Toscano responding.

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Α.

I would think so. We know so. 1 2 Depending on what ultimately comes out of this, they will be incorporated into the 900 rule 3 4 update, which we are in the process of doing right now. 5 Okay. And then if the CPCNH proposal is approved 6 Q. 7 in its entirety, I think it's fair to say that there would be updates to the 900 rules as well? 8 9 (Perruccio) Deandra Perruccio. Α. I think that would be a more 10 Yes. 11 significant set of changes. I believe the 12 settling parties would -- the legacy period as 13 well would likely need to be addressed there. 14 Okay. And can -- for -- can the Department share Q. 15 its plan. Because as you said, the 900 rules 16 require a number of updates in any case. Can you share the timeline that the Department is on for 17 the -- the current updates and then sort of some 18 idea of -- of any updates with either the two 19 scenarios of how long it would take to update the 20 21 900 rules or an idea of the current timeline? This is Attorney Ladwig. 22 MS. LADWIG: 23 I can take that quick.

1		I believe Mr. Toscano mentioned
2		there's a the Department is required to open
3		an investigation and rulemaking into
4		interconnection as a result of SB 391, which
5		deals which is an extensive part of the 900
6		rules.
7		So I believe you'll be seeing an
8		investigation of rulemaking into the 900 rules
9		from the Department shortly. But we don't have
10		the specific timeline at the moment.
11		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. The
12		Commission hopes to collaborate with the
13		Department on this topic, given that it's it
14		affects both the PUC and the Department. Okay.
15		Thank you.
16		Commissioner Chattopadhyay, do you
17		want to have one more question before the break?
18		BY CMSR. CHATTOPADHYAY:
19	Q.	Commissioner Chattopadhyay.
20		Do any of do any one of you know
21		much about FERC Order 2222?
22	Α.	(Toscano) Mark Toscano.
23		Very little. I have read it, and I

1 have not absorbed it yet, but it -- and a lot of 2 things, as you heard the other day, have -- the utilities have not had a chance to start 3 implementing some of that. 4 So -- Commissioner Chattopadhyay. 5 Q. My understanding is it's -- informs me 6 7 about the DER application, and it tries to facilitate that and allow it to be part of the 8 wholesale electric markets. I'm just explaining 9 what it is. 10 So -- and then it might take time to 11 happen. 12 I assume it has -- I think, my 13 understanding, it has complied with those 14 requirements. So I'm just indicating that a lot 15 of the discussions that you're going to have over 16 the next two years may have to be also informed by that order, because this is a -- situation is 17 in a flux, really, going forward. 18 So I would --I would just highlight that. 19 I would appreciate if the DOE is 20 21 making sure it's looking at that aspect as well. 22 (Nixon) This is Liz Nixon. Α. I just want to note that the person 23

1		that probably knows the most about that is not
2		part of this panel, so but the DOE is aware.
3	Q.	I think I heard this for the first time, so thank
4		you.
5	Α.	(Nixon) Yeah.
6		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Let's take a
7		let's take a 30-minute break, returning at
8		five of, and we'll return with the final
9		Commission inquiries, if any, and then move to
10		redirect. Off the record.
11		(Recess taken.)
12		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Back on the
13		record. The Commissioners have no further
14		questions, and we'll move to redirect.
15		REDIRECT EXAMINATION
16		BY MS. LADWIG:
17	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig. Thank you.
18		Attorney Manzelli on cross asked you a
19		couple of questions about Unitil Kingston solar
20		project and Liberty's battery storage pilot.
21		Could you explain your position on
22		those two pilots or apparently, Unitil was a
23		pilot those two topics or programs as they

relate to your recommendations in this docket?

A. (Toscano) Mark Toscano responding, initially to Liberty's battery project.

And that was, and is, very much a pilot project, and the intent was to learn from that project. And Liz Nixon can further comment on some of the historical parts and concerns, but one of them was that Liberty did not have the capability at the time to necessarily communicate when -- when (indiscernible) load shifting periods were there. And ultimately, they had to require -- and also to ensure that renewable energy was used to charge the batteries, because that's still kind of the statute for net metering -- in the statute for net metering. So they rely on the Tesla company to do that.

So the long story short is, it's a pilot project that we're learning from. And what we learned from that, ultimately, the intent is to some day then bring that out to a larger group of customers, assuming that it continues to make sense.

In the case of Kingston solar -- the

Kingston solar project, while that's not technically a pilot from your comment, it is very much a learning experience to operate as a load reducer, and we heard talk about that on Tuesday.

And it was -- just some of the comments and questions that came earlier were very valid. That we're looking at projections.

We're going to look at how it actually performs versus the basic assumptions that went into it.

So it's not something that you can extrapolate across the entire energy system, in our view and -- at least not now, because these are very specific projects.

A. (Nixon) If I can just add a little more on the Liberty battery storage and the customer generator piece of that.

participating in that pilot that have solar, we had concern that the batteries could charge from the -- that the batteries needed to charge from the solar in order for them to get net metering compensation, and Tesla was able to guarantee to us that they were -- that they could guarantee

1	that that was happening.
2	But otherwise, we're not sure that
3	there's a guarantee that those batteries will be
4	charged from the solar for the renewables, which
5	is the statutory requirement.
6	MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig.
7	Thanks. That's all I have.
8	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Thank you to
9	the DOE witnesses for testimony today. The
10	witnesses are excused, and we'll invite the CPCNH
11	witness to the witness box.
12	(Brief pause.)
13	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Moving on to
14	CPCNH. I will ask the witness to please identify
15	himself for the record.
16	THE WITNESS: I am Clifton Cross
17	Below.
18	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. And can
19	you please raise your right hand.
20	(Whereupon, CLIFTON BELOW was duly
21	sworn by Chairman Goldner.)
22	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. The
23	witness is ready for direct.

## 1 DIRECT EXAMINATION 2 BY MS. MANZELLI: Thank you. And, Mr. Below, could you please 3 Q. state your title with the Coalition? 4 I am the chair of the Coalition, the chair of the 5 Α. board of directors. 6 7 Thank you. And as -- Amy Manzelli questioning. Q. 8 And as I stated before, to avoid the 9 alphabet soup, we're going to call the Community 10 Power Coalition of New Hampshire the "Coalition" 11 for the purposes of your testimony today, okay? 12 Α. Okay. 13 Now, just briefly, concisely, imaging you're 14 talking to a room full of sixth graders here with 15 no background in energy. Tell us what it is that 16 the Coalition does and who they are. 17 Α. (Below) Yes. Clifton Below responding. 18 The Coalition is a governmental 19 instrumentality, which wouldn't be understood by, 20 necessarily, a young person, but that means it's 21 an extension of subdivisions of the state by 22 operating -- exercising municipal and county 23 authorities.

And it is comprised of 58 municipal members and two county members, and it operates through a joint powers agreement that the governing boards of all of our communities have executed.

And it also functions as a joint power agency, procuring power to supply power to customers of our members who have launched mini power aggregations.

- Q. And could you just clarify, by what authority does the Coalition operate? You know, are you chartered in the 1800s or -- just identify the authority, please.
- A. (Below) It's RSA 53-A, which concerns the joint exercise of powers by subdivisions of the state and state agencies.
- Q. Thank you. Now, again, without getting into the substance of your testimony yet, do you have any updates or corrections to your pre-filed testimonies on behalf of the Coalition, which are in this docket marked as Exhibits 13 and 14?
- 22 A. (Below) Yes, I do.

23 | Q. All right. Could you please go over those

corrections for us? 1 2 Α. (Below) Just a few. Clifton speaking. 3 In Exhibit 13, at page 5, it's just 4 some of the background on the Coalition, so I need to update that. At line 4, it reads the 5 Coalition is a joint powers agency of 48. 6 7 now 58 New Hampshire municipalities. 8 county; it's now two. 9 Our current members comprise about, at 10 that time -- I wrote this half a year ago -- 30 11 percent of the state's population. That's now 12 about 36 percent of the state's population. 13 We currently serve -- it said 80,000. 14 About 80,000 customers in 14 communities. It's 15 now -- we're now serving over 140,000 customers 16 and 36 communities power aggregations -- serving, 17 actually, 42 municipalities, including (indiscernible) state programs that are operating 18 19 on an opt-out basis as alternative defaults for 20 the supplier.

Q. Thank you. And with those updates, do you adopt your testimony?

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A. (Below) I have an update to Exhibit 14 as well.

please, Mr. Below, continue your  update.  A. (Below) Yes. Clifton speaking.  On Bates Exhibit 14, at Bates page  15, line 8, there's a reference to CPCNH 1-001.  That's incorrect. It should be CPCNH 1-003E.  And there's actually one other  correction, I think, to Exhibit 13. Hold on just  a second. (Brief pause.)  Oh, maybe it's in Exhibit 14, I'm  sorry. Ah, I'm sorry. I misplaced where it is,	
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10 a second. (Brief pause.)  11 Oh, maybe it's in Exhibit 14, I'm	
Oh, maybe it's in Exhibit 14, I'm	
sorry. Ah, I'm sorry. I misplaced where it is,	
but but there is a calculation in here that	
refers to .08 per kilowatt hour concerning the	
RPS compliance obligation, and it should be .008,	
and that but the resulting calculation from	
that number is actually correct.	
I apologize that I can't put my finger	
19 on it, but	
Q. Amy Manzelli speaking. Thank you, Mr. Below. I	
21 think the correction is understood.	
22 Any other corrections to your	

1 A. (Below) No.

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- 2 Q. -- marked as Exhibits 13 and 14? Okay.
- With those updates and corrections, do
  you adopt your testimonies marked as Exhibit 13

and 14 as your sworn testimonies in this case?

- 6 A. (Below) Clifton speaking. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And then, it is fair to say that inside
  those testimonies, especially in Exhibit 13, they
  document much of your extensive experience in the
  energy sector?
- 11 A. (Below) Yes.
- Q. And again, just keeping at a high level here
  without getting into many of the details, is it
  fair to say that you have a comprehensive,
  well-rounded, and deep experience in energy that
  stems from being a legislator, a regulator, and a
  lot of other roles in the energy field?
  - A. (Below) Yes.
- 19 Q. And again, keeping this at a very high level, is
  20 it fair to say that a great deal of your
  21 experience is relevant to net metering?
- 22 A. (Below) Clifton speaking. Yes.
- 23 | Q. Amy Manzelli questioning.

With your experience and background in mind -- and again, keeping things high level here -- please explain, how did we get to this docket for consideration of changes to the current net metering tariff structure, including compensation with customer generators, and what should the Commission be doing here?

A. (Below) Clifton speaking.

2.3

About a decade ago, which was already about 16 or 18 years after the original act of connecting of net metering, after there had been some legislative expansions of net metering, such as from 100 KW as the maximum size to 1 megawatt, there was growing concern in the legislature that there might be some excess compensation or subsidy, if you will.

And so, in the follow-up to 2015,
Senator Bradley drafted legislation. He was then
the chair of the Senate Energy Committee, that
triggered the last review of net metering. They
put into statute the first legislative mandate to
update net metering tariffs, and delegated that
to the Commission.

1 The -- in fact, I participated in 2 There were actually two dueling 3 settlements, and I and others tried to bring the parties together. There ended up being a lot of 4 overlap. I ended up being the only party who had 5 filed testimony initially, who wasn't part of the 6 7 two settlements. The PUC staff wasn't either. And the -- I advocated for somewhat middle 8 The Commission did that. 9 ground. 10 And one of the frustrations, I think, 11 about the Commission at the time, and the parties 12 had, was a lack of data, so that obviously -- one 13 of the things that came out of that was the need 14 for better data. 15 And since that time, the legislature 16 has continued to add text to the statute, asking the Commission to do additional review of net 17 metering, and that's what has brought us here 18 19 today. 20 Thank you. Amy Manzelli questioning. Q. 21 Calling your attention to Exhibit 13, 22 which is your direct testimony, and in particular 2.3 your attachments, you have emphasized the words

here in lots of different ways. So calling your attention to the words, on Bates stamp page 49, that you have highlighted and italicized. Could you please explain what your opinion is of the significance of that text? Again, that's page -- Bates stamp page 49 of the attachments in your Exhibit 13.

A. (Below) And Bates page 48 is where it begins.

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That is an annotated -- this was annotated by me -- description of some of the legislative history and, essentially, a review of all the language -- statutory language around net metering.

And what you see is words that have been added since 2016, first -- since the first enactment of everything after Roman 15, or Roman 15 going down. Roman 15 is the grandfathering provision that the legislature put in, to 2040.

And what we see is that since then,

and -- this was since the outcome of the last

docket on net metering. The legislature has

added additional language here, such as, I think,

directing the Commission to continue to develop,

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and periodically review, alternative -- new and alternative net metering tariffs.

And they actually added some additional language about -- in the review of what the Commission shall consider, including balancing the interests of customer generators with those of electric utility ratepayers, by maximizing any net benefits, while minimizing any negative cost shifts from customer generators to other customers, and from other customers to customer generators.

And the -- the significance of that is that the legislature was recognizing that there was a possibility of subsidy in both directions. And they want the Commission to consider how we can maximize net benefits while minimizing those potentially negative cost shifts in either direction.

And then you also see -- and, of course, the Commission put much of this in their Order of Notice. Through the rest of the chapter, up to Bates page 52, are additional questions that the Commission -- that the

legislature asked the Commission to consider at some point, and in particular, some specific questions about what's appropriate for larger than 1 megawatt projects, in this -- essentially, in this proceeding, because it says, once the distributed energy resource valuation study is completed and the Commission opens a docket, it asks the Commission to consider a number of questions, which our testimony -- my testimony on behalf of the Coalition goes to some length to try to address how the Commission can, in fact, better achieve and take into consideration all these questions that the Commission -- that the legislature has asked the Commission to try to resolve through an adjudicative procedure.

Q. Thank you. Amy Manzelli questioning.

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And so, the -- Mr. Below, the question that you've identified in the statute, this Commission has never yet, until this docket, had an opportunity to answer these questions; is that correct?

A. (Below) Well, they certainly haven't had the legislative directive to do it. Whether they

1 could have on their own, I'm not sure. But yes. 2 This would be the first time many of these considerations are addressed. 3 4 Amy Manzelli questioning. Q. I want to draw your attention to 5 Exhibit 32, which is a collection of the 6 7 Coalition's answers to a handful of record 8 requests. 9 Are there any record requests from the 10 Commission that speak to the overarching purpose 11 for which we're here today that you would like to 12 address at this time? 13 Yes. Clifton speaking. Α. (Below) 14 Exhibit 32, at page 5, provides a 15 little bit of context. It was in response to the 16 Commission's question about, is any amount of cross-subsidization appropriate and acceptable? 17 And I pointed out that in that last 18 docket, DE 16-576, I observed that net metering 19 started out and developed prior to 2016 as a 20 21 rough justice, legislatively determined, and that 22 the development of alternative net metering 2.3 tariffs, net metering 2.0, by statute, is to be

reviewed and approved by the Commission.

2.3

And that in that last case, it was an opportunity to make rough justice somewhat more granular and accurate. And in this case, I think the Commission has an opportunity to continue to refine that rough justice, make it more accurate, and, in the process, minimize undue and not reasonably necessary cost shifting or cross-subsidization that may be considered unjust and unreasonable because it's undue. It's not really necessary to continue certain cross-subsidizations.

Q. Thank you, Mr. Below. Amy Manzelli questioning.

Now, just last sort of big-picture question before we move to the Coalition's eighth recommendations here.

Can you just please briefly explain the Coalition's overarching concerns that are driving the Coalition's eight recommendations?

A. (Below) Oh, yes. I think our concern is that

we -- we don't want to see New Hampshire make,

arguably, some of the mistakes that Massachusetts

and Maine, for example, have made.

And what I refer to is the lack of temporal price signals. We've heard already testimony in recognition that all kilowatt hours are not the same. And yet, current -- the current status quo essentially says, all kilowatt hours are equal.

And we heard from the Dunsky

witnesses, for instance, that that structure -there's no financial reason to design projects
that help reduce coincident peak demand, for
instance. Which has a lot of value, as that
study showed, for instance, by allowing storage
to be coupled with net metering generation. It
increases the value.

And likewise, the Unitil single-access tracker shows that you get a different investment when you take into account the temporal value of the production of solar.

And we also heard from Brian Rice on behalf of Eversource that Massachusetts, where they essentially have legislatively determined compensation structures, that they saw a rapid build-out over time of projects that, I believe,

1	are almost exclusively designed to optimize the
2	one-hour production at the lowest cost, which is
3	fixed orientation, facing south, so they produce
4	the most solar "noon."
5	And what we see in the Unitil
6	single-access tracker case is that you get a
7	different investment decision, which is,
8	arguably, much better in the long run, because
9	the single-access tracker, for instance, produces
10	more in the morning and more in the late
11	afternoon. So it actually has a production
12	profile that better matches the load.
13	And we also heard that once you build
14	out the hosting capacity, you run into a
15	situation where, without very expensive upgrades,
16	you can't add more distributed resources.
17	New Hampshire has the opportunity, as
18	the legislature has, you know, really asked the
19	Commission to do, to use price signals, temporal
20	price signals, to incentivize smarter and,
21	ultimately, more beneficial investments.
22	And I'll just give an example of this
23	from the City of Lebanon. When the city went to

do an RFP to develop some solar projects, we had this one site that has like less than .5 percent shading at the airport, and we had one proposal for dual-access trackers, which are fairly widely used in Vermont, and we had a proposal for a fixed orientation system. And the dual-access trackers were somewhat more expensive. They have more operating costs.

But when I analyzed it based on the underlying cost causation, it produced on the order of 20 percent or more value per kilowatt hour, which is similar to sort of what Unitil found with the single-access tracker project.

I will also say that the Coalition has been approached by on the order of a dozen developers who have prospective sites in the state, and those sites, in conversations with -- with some of them, they've said if there's -- if you get credit for reported transmission costs, we'll build a single-access tracker, like they do in New York, or -- and -- or we'll come up with battery storage. If we don't, if we have the status quo, we'll just build more south-facing

1 solar. 2 So the -- the --3 Q. Mr. Below, thank you. Amy Manzelli questioning. 4 To summarize the overarching concern, would it be fair to say that the Coalition wants 5 to get it right and get it right now? 6 7 (Below) Yes. Α. 8 Q. Thank you. So let's move on to the eight 9 specific recommendations. For each of the 10 Coalition's recommendations, here's how we're 11 going to do it. I'm going to ask you three 12 overarching questions, and they're going be: 13 First, whether the Settlement Agreement changes 14 the Coalition's position; second, to explain what 15 the Coalition's recommendations is, along with 16 the reasoning behind the recommendation; and then 17 once we're done with that, I'll ask you to identify, to the extent you haven't already, the 18 19 evidence that supports the Coalition's 20 recommendation, okay? 21 (Below) Α. Okay. 22 If I may, just before we MR. TAYLOR: 23 go down this path -- I don't know that I'm going

1 to state this as an objection, perhaps as an 2 observation, that typically direct in these cases is somewhat limited before the witness is open to 4 cross-examination. To the extent that Attorney Manzelli 5 and Mr. Below are going to walk through their 6 7 testimony, which is already in written format for the Commission, that may not be the -- the best use of the Commission's time today. So, just an 10 observation I'll offer to you. 11 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you, Attorney Taylor. The -- I was on the verge of 12 13 making the same point, Attorney Manzelli. I 14 think, as I mentioned to the Department of Energy 15 but I failed to mention before to the Coalition, 16 we do have the pre-file testimony, and we should just limit it to clarifications or corrections to 17 the pre-filed testimony. 18 So if there's anything you'd like to 19 20 clarify or correct, please do that. Otherwise, 21 we do understand the Coalition's recommendation. 22 Thank you, Commissioner MS. MANZELLI: 2.3 Goldner. Certainly, we do not plan to have --

1	nor have we yet had Mr. Below simply take the
2	stand to, you know, read his testimony. None of
3	the panels have done that yet, nor would we plan
4	for that. However, all of the panels have gone
5	over a full review of the substance of their
6	testimony, which is what we plan to do.
7	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: So let me ask you,
8	which exhibit are you going to work off of?
9	MS. MANZELLI: Exhibit 13, and as well
10	as Exhibits 16 through 32.
11	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: So I think if if
12	you have sort of a a brief summary, that would
13	be okay. But I do I do think that we have an
14	understanding of what the Coalition is asking
15	for, and I'm most interested in hearing the cross
16	from the DOE and the joint parties.
17	So I think I think your testimony
18	is well understood, and I guess I'm grasping for
19	what what what the Coalition would like to
20	add at this point.
21	MS. MANZELLI: Sure. And it's not so
22	much adding as it is emphasizing. You know, the
23	Commission has noted in this docket, as well as

1	others, that it is, you know, variably buried in
2	papers in these dockets, and that it is, you
3	know, in your position up in the dais, difficult
4	to follow the pile of words that you end up
5	getting, especially now, post-hearing brief,
6	exhibits, position statements.
7	So the hearing is the opportunity to
8	bubble up to the most important points for any
9	given party. So that's the opportunity the
10	hearing presents and the opportunity which, you
11	know, we plan to engage in today.
12	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. There are an
13	abundance of filings here. 32 exhibits might be
14	a Commission record of some kind. Former
15	Commissioner Below could maybe find one where
16	there was more, but this is a lot. So I think we
17	will benefit from a boiling down of the issues.
18	MS. MANZELLI: Yeah.
19	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: And a
20	simplification, and we would like to hear more on
21	that, but please please keep it limited to
22	just clarifying for the Commission what your ask
23	is today.

1 MS. MANZELLT: Yeah. And to that 2 point, I will literally read from the question 3 here. 4 BY MS. MANZELLI: Mr. Below, especially where the Settlement 5 Q. Agreement does not change the Coalition's 6 7 position, you've already written it all down on 8 the record in this docket, so I'm going to 9 encourage you to boil those recommendations down 10 to their essence in your testimony today, so we 11 can move through that material quickly, okay? 12 Α. (Below) Okay. 13 Does the Settlement Agreement change the 14 Coalition's recommendations about grandfathering? 15 Only to a very limited extent. Α. 16 and let me briefly expand on that. 17 speaking. 18 We do believe that it's important to 19 have a 20-year certainty as to the general rate 20 structure that new projects will be developed and 21 compensated under. So that is important. We, I 22 think, share the Department's concern, and 2.3 perhaps some of the concern expressed by the

1 Commission, that just locking into the full 2 default service rate over the next 20 years might not be ideal. And so we are comfortable and 4 confident saying that, yes, there should be a 5 20-year legacy period, particularly if the 6 7 Commission accepts some of the recommendations of 8 the Department with regard to time-of-use rates, where they could be available sooner than later, 9 10 as well as -- it's particularly important 11 recognizing credit for avoided transmission 12 costs. 13 And, Mr. Below, I'm going to move on here to 14 refer to -- Amy Manzelli speaking. 15 Please refer to Exhibit 28, and also 16 reference the testimony we heard yesterday, where Unitil testified that its applications are up 17 approximately five times. 18 19 Can you elaborate on the magnitude of possible new projects coming online as it relates 20 21 to the importance of not locking in? 22 Exhibit 28 is a response by Α. (Below) Yes. 2.3 Eversource to a question from the Consumer

Advocate, which is about the amount of capacity in the queue that are waiting interconnection consideration.

And what it shows is that, while there's a lot of projects under 100 KW and only a few over 1 megawatt -- 47 compared to 2400 -- the amount of capacity in the 1 megawatt or greater is about 296 megawatts out of 332 total, which is roughly eight or nine times as much as under 1 megawatt.

So it indicates there's a potential for a lot of development in the foreseeable future of projects 1 megawatt or greater.

- Q. And, Mr. Below, if all of these projects were to stay locked in at the current status quo, what would that mean for justness and reasonableness?
- A. (Below) Well, I think what it would mean is we'd get a lot of suboptimal projects built that are not maximizing value to ratepayers.

And I just do want to mention that we heard testimony from Unitil about the rapid increase in proposals. And just a related concern, which I think should be considered, is

1		the fact that it's quite possible and, in my
2		view, more likely than not, that a year from now,
3		the legislature, after it changes with the next
4		election, and we'll have a new Governor.
5		Regardless of who's the Governor, there will be
6		legislation just to open up net metering to 5
7		megawatts without the municipal host construct.
8	Q.	I appreciate your perspective, but you can't be
9		certain of that.
10	Α.	(Below) No, but it's a possibility.
11	Q.	Amy Manzelli questioning.
12		And you mentioned several suboptimal
13		projects being the result of all of these
14		projects coming online and being locked into the
15		status quo.
16		Could you explain what you what you
17		think would be the impact on the non-NEM
18		customers in that scenario?
19		MR. KRAKOFF: Objection. Speculation.
20		It's Nick Krakoff.
21		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Could you rephrase
22		your question, Attorney Manzelli?
23		MS. MANZELLI: Sure.

1		BY MS. MANZELLI:
2	Q.	Do you believe that the rate to non-NEM customers
3		would remain just and reasonable in that
4		scenario?
5		MR. KRAKOFF: Again, objection. I
6		mean, I think that's completely speculation.
7		Totally speculative. This is Nick Krakoff.
8		He has no idea what's going to happen
9		in that point in time, so I don't think he should
10		be allowed to answer the question.
11		MS. MANZELLI: With all due respect,
12		why is that any more speculative than the
13		Settlement Agreement that rejects a just and
14		reasonable rate through a legacy period?
15		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: I'll allow the
16		answer, and the Commission will give it the
17		weight it deserves.
18		THE WITNESS: (Below) Clifton
19		responding.
20		I am concerned that over the long
21		term, just locking into the status quo would not
22		be just and reasonable. I think it's reasonable
23		for the short term, but not the long term.

## BY MS. MANZELLI:

- Q. And to the extent that we haven't touched on all of the evidence that supports the Commission's [sic] recommendations with respect to grandfathering, is there any other evidence in the record that you wish to point to at this time?
  - A. (Below) Oh, no, not really. I -- I would just comment that there is a fair amount of evidence in the record about the potential growth of -- of projects.
  - Q. Thank you, Mr. Below. Second recommendation.

    Let's turn to RSA 362-A:9, XVI(a). So this is asking the question, whether or not exports to the grid by customer generators taking default service should be accounted for as a reduction to what would otherwise be the wholesale load obligation of the load serving entity producing default service absent such exports to the grid.

Did the Settlement Agreement change the Coalition's recommendation about this?

- A. (Below) Clifton answering. No.
- 23 Q. Okay. So, given that this is one of the

recommendations the Coalition has already documented in its testimony, just please, very, very briefly touch on, what is the Coalition's recommendation here?

A. (Below) Our recommendation is that we need to improve how we account for exports to the grid. They're not accounted for. They're treated as unaccounted-for energy, so the benefit kind of disappears. Although it exists, it's just not transparent, and it's not accounted for, so we can't really put a number on it.

So our recommendation is that the

Commission direct the utilities to begin planning
to consider updating their load settlement

systems by competitively soliciting proposals
that could modify their load settlement systems
to account for exports to the grid as an offset
to the supplier's wholesale load obligation.

And I do want to mention, we've heard questions about FERC Order 2222. I would simply note that that is sort of a parallel process, in which FERC is saying we need to allow aggregated distributed energy resources to participate in

the market where there are temporal price
signals. That's as frequently as five minutes,
which is the same frequency which supply in the
interstate wholesale market to settle that.

So we would recommend the Commission
direct the parties to convene a stakeholder work

direct the parties to convene a stakeholder work group to begin to think about how this might change and how it might be done in a way that is consistent with the requirements that are likely to be implemented from FERC Order 2222.

- Q. Thank you, Mr. Below. And there are a number of record requests contained in the exhibits that you believe are relevant to these recommendations, correct?
- A. (Below) Correct.

- Q. Let's turn to Exhibit 18. Would you please explain briefly how this is relevant to your recommendations?
  - A. (Below) And I will say -- Clifton speaking -that there is quite a subset of these, and I
    think that in the interests of time, we probably
    don't need to go through every one of them,
    although I'd certainly be happy to do that. I

1 think they're there. 2 Q. Mr. Below, with your cue, I could take these in a 3 much quicker fashion. Do you believe that Exhibits 18 4 through 26, which are various record requests, 5 are relevant and support the Coalition's 6 7 recommendation that we just reviewed? 8 Α. (Below) Yes. 9 Okay. Amy Manzelli speaking. Q. 10 And all of these are pre-responses by 11 the Coalition, correct? 12 Α. (Below) Correct. 13 Do you wish to adopt these record requests as 14 supplements to your testimony? Clifton speaking. Yes, I do. 15 (Below) Α. 16 Turning to Exhibit 29, which is a --O. Thank you. 17 another record request -- request, but in this instance answered by Joseph Swiss -- Swift, 18 19 excuse me. Do you believe that that is also 20

recommendation?

A. (Below) Yes. That response, and the one that

relevant to and supports the Coalition's

21

follows in Exhibit 30 from Unitil, do indicate
that the parent line losses that they publish and
that they assume, for settlement purposes in
Eversource's case, 7.1 percent, are, in fact,
much lower because of the added accounted-for
energy, of which exports to the grid by net
metered customers appear to be a significant
component, but not the only component.

And what that indicates is there was also a response that it's actually possible for the parent line loss to go negative, which means to supply a megawatt of power on the grid, probably particularly on a sunny, solar-producing day, you have to buy less than 1 megawatt from the ISO New England market to serve that 1 megawatt because of the unaccounted-for energy.

Q. Thank you, Mr. Below. Amy Manzelli questioning here.

So that covers recommendation No. 2. Let's turn to No. 3.

A. (Below) Okay.

2.3

Q. This is the next question in the statute, A-9, Section XXIII, and the question is: The

1 Commission shall consider, as part of its 2 consideration of net metering tariffs that apply to newly constructed customer generators with a total peak generating capacity of greater than 4 1 megawatt, whether or not the monetary credit 5 should include compensation for services and 6 7 value not currently compensated, such as avoided 8 transmission, distribution, and capacity costs and other grid services. 9 10 So for this question, did the 11 Settlement Agreement change the Coalition's 12 recommendation? 13 (Below) Yes, somewhat. Α. 14 Go ahead and -- Amy Manzelli questioning. Ο. 15 Go ahead and explain that, please, 16 Mr. Below. 17 Α. (Below) Clifton responding. We recommended some fairly extensive 18 ways to account for avoided transmission and 19 capacity costs. 20 And, of course, the question in 21 the statute refers particularly to over 1 22 megawatt. Our -- I think our -- the key essence 2.3 of our recommendations at this point is to focus

1		the implementation of credit for actual actual
2		avoided transmission costs to those projects over
3		1 megawatt that will almost certainly have
4		interval metering, so the calculation can be
5		done, and to just continue to explore how that
6		could be done for smaller projects. But
7		somewhat, in a way, consistent with the
8		Department's recommendations is where it's
9		possible, either because those customers smaller
10		than 1 megawatt have interval metering or where
11		there's a time-of-use rate that's already
12		developed and potentially available, that those
13		projects going forward, as part of NEM 2.1 or
14		3.0, be given a signal at this time that they
15		will transition within the 20-year legacy period
16		to a rate in which, when it's possible to
17		implement it for over 1 megawatt, that they get
18		credit for actual avoided transmission costs, and
19		for less than that, that they should expect a
20		transition, either to something like that or a
21		time-of-use rate that could provide a similar
22		price signal temporal price signal.
23	Q.	Thank you, Mr. Below. So the key here is, for

this size, to plan now to transition to temporal price signals or actual avoided transmission?

A. (Below) Yes.

- Q. Thank you. And to the extent you haven't already addressed this, I want to call your attention to Exhibit 32, and ask you to explain your rationale for treating greater than 1 megawatt systems differently than the 100 kilowatt to 1 megawatt.
- A. (Below) Yes. Exhibit 32 at pages 14 to 15 -Clifton responding here -- was a response to a
  record request by the Commission, and it does
  provide background on how it came to be that
  there was this sharp cutoff as a result of a
  legislative compromise, but goes on and explains
  why it would make sense to treat greater than 1
  megawatt differently at this time because of
  the -- both the magnitude of their potential
  impact and the feasibility of doing this.

And I would just say, you know, part of the recommendation or suggestion at this time, is to recognize the fact that there's actually very few projects over 1 megawatt now, a lot in the queue, but to -- to calculate avoided

transmission cost requires a look -- a lookup of 12 hourly production figures exported to the grid per year, and an application to that against the regional network's service rate, and that could be done manually, and I think projects of that size could pay for the extra time to do those calculations manually, so that could be implemented, you know, without a cost to other ratepayers.

Q. Thank you. And we discussed a little bit
earlier, but I want to get into this with a
little bit more detail, but still keeping that as
brief as you possibly can, the possibility of the
magnitude of the increase in projects, the
increase in distributed energy resources coming
on.

And turning your attention to

Mr. Woolf's and Mr. Borden's testimony in Exhibit

4, we're going to turn to Bates stamp page 19,

Figure 1. I'll give you a second to get there.

- A. (Below) Clifton here. I'm there.
- Q. So the question is: Keeping in mind the possible magnitude of increase in projects that we talked

1 about, can you please explain whether status quo 2 net metering 2.0 will be just and reasonable, given the magnitude of increased energy --3 distributed energy resources, according to this 4 testimony in front of you? 5 Clifton speaking. 6 Α. (Below) 7 The testimony points to the fact that 8 as -- quoting, as adoption increases, 9 jurisdiction should shift towards compensation and avoided cost. 10 11 And it talks about several stages. 12 And at Stage 3, it talks about adoption over 10 Incentives should focus towards 13 percent. 14 optimizing investment. And I think, if we're not there now 15 16 yet, we're rapidly and quite possibly within the 17 next couple of years going to get out in that 18 realm. 19 Thank you. And now turning back to Exhibit 13, Q. your testimony. Can you briefly explain your 20 21 avoided transmission cost rate model? 22 would just turn your attention to pages 54 to 61. 2.3 Oh, the -- those pages are in --Α. (Below)

- Q. Your attachment.
- 2 | A. (Below) -- my attachments.
- $3 \mid Q$ . Yes.

2.3

A. (Below) And I have those. Just a moment.

But I will just start out by saying that I tried to collect as many actual data sets for the relevant time period of 2021 and 2022 and, through discovery, received data from the utilities, each utility, on their RNS rates for each month, as well as LNS. But the focus on the analysis was just the RNS rate, which was reflected in the testimony that -- at this point, at the logical place to start, would be just giving credit for RNS.

LNS is a smaller figure, but by not giving credit for LNS, it helps to ensure that all ratepayers potentially benefit, from an LS -- reduction to LNS charges that are not compensated to the distributed generator.

But what that -- I looked at ten

different data sets and matched up actual

production data in almost every case. Sometimes

it was only for a year, in some cases for both

years, and found that across all of the different data sets, there was significant value produced -- it's sort of a "but for" question.

If this generation had not been exported to the grid at the single hour of monthly coincident peak, there would have been significant increased transmission cost in transmission rates.

And it just takes the actual multiplied value, the RNS times the output at those coincident peak hours, and then rolls that up to the total production for that data set for the year, and then shows that -- how that converts for either the 2021 or the 2022 periods to the actual value per kilowatt hour for the total export to the grid.

Q. Thank you, Mr. Below. We're going to move right along here to the fourth recommendation.

So this is -- we're sticking with

Statute 362-A:9. Now we are in Section XIII,

still. The question here is: The Commission

shall consider, as part of its consideration of

net metering tariffs that apply to newly

constructed customer generators with a total peak

generating capacity greater than 1 megawatt, 1 2 whether or not the cost of compliance with the electric removal portfolio standard, 362-F, inclusive of prior year reconciliations, should 4 be excluded from the monetary credit for exports 5 to the grid. 6 7 I should have said Amy Manzelli 8 questioning. 9 Did the Settlement Agreement change 10 the Coalition's position on whether or not RPS 11 compliance should be excluded from the monetary 12 credit? 13 (Below) Α. No. 14 Okay. Ο. 15 Clifton responding. Α. (Below) 16 And so, given that we've already had Ο. Thank you. this covered in your direct filed testimony, very 17 briefly go over the Commission -- the Coalition's 18 recommendation. 19 20 (Below) While our recommendations is to go ahead Α. 21 and -- at the point in time in which the transmission -- avoided transmission credit 22 2.3 becomes available, say to over 1 megawatt or in

the smaller group, that the -- that the customer generator transitioned to a reduction in their default service rate compensation, down from the full default service rate to the base default service rate. The base default service rate in Eversource and Liberty filings is equivalent to what is paid to the supplier. And so, doing that enables that to be more readily used as an offset for the supplier's load obligation.

And the -- the thing that I want to note, in response to the settlement, because the main argument against this is that this is just -- it's just not that big of a deal. So even though it might be a cost shift, it's not unjust or unreasonable because it's just not that big.

And I agree that for over 100 KW today, it's not a net cost shift, because of the lack of compensation for avoided transmission cost. So just getting the full default service rate is still undercompensating compared to the value produced.

O. Mr. Below?

2.3

- 1 A. (Below) Yes.
- 2 | Q. I'm going to bring it back to the hypothetical
- 3 sixth-graders there in the room.
- $4 \mid A.$  (Below) Yes.
- 5 Q. Yes or no, should the compliance costs be
- 6 excluded from the default service supply credit?
- 7 A. (Below) Yes.
- 8 Q. Thank you. And now I'm going to turn our
- 9 attention -- we'll do the same thing we did
- 10 before.
- So do -- you believe that there are
- 12 several record requests which are relevant to the
- Coalition's position here, right?
- 14 | A. (Below) Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. So those would be Exhibits 28, 31, 16, and
- 16 | 17, correct?
- 17 A. (Below) Also, Exhibit 15.
- 18 | Q. Thank you for that additional. Amy Manzelli
- 19 speaking here.
- 20 Are there any of those which you wish
- 21 to elaborate on?
- 22 A. (Below) Just one.
- 23 Q. Thank you. Please do.

A. (Below) On Exhibit 15, on page 2, there is a graphic from an ISO New England presentation about: Renewable energy is on the rise. State policy requirements are a major driver.

And it shows, for all of New England states, from 2020 to 2040, what the expected RPS compliance cost is. And what you'll see is New Hampshire sort of flatlined at 2025 at about 25 percent, and all the other states continue to rise, significantly higher than New Hampshire.

My observation is, to the extent the other parties have testified that this is not a significant problem, we simply observed that it's a distinct possibility that New Hampshire will change its RPS requirement and become more like other states. Other states may also change theirs, like Rhode Island has done, trying to get to 100 percent renewable commitments.

In that case, over the next 20 years, this could become a very significant cost shift, and a key point of my testimony is that customer generators do not produce a product which this compensates.

1	By including the RPS credit in the
2	compensation, which is the difference between the
3	base default service and the full default service
4	rate, plus a prior period under collections,
5	other collections, and the cost of administering
6	default service. That is something that could
7	grow in scale, and while it may be only 10
8	percent or less now of the full default service
9	rate, it could become a much more significant
10	part. So that's my point.
11	MR. KRAKOFF: Objection. This is Nick
12	Krakoff. That was a complete speculative
13	response. I mean, there's no law on the RPS
14	or you know, that he's referring to. So he's
15	just speculating about, you know, future law that
16	may or may not even pass sometime in the future
17	that we have no idea would happen.
18	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Acknowledged,
19	Attorney Krakoff. And again, the Commission will
20	give the response the weight it deserves, based
21	on speculative nature. Please proceed
22	MS. MANZELLI: Thank you.
23	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Attorney

1		Manzelli.	
2		BY MS. MANZELLI:	
3	Q.	Attorney Manzelli questioning.	
4		Mr. Below, with respect to Exhibits	
5		15, 16, and 17, those are responses from the	
6		Coalition, correct?	
7	A.	(Below) Correct.	
8	Q.	Do you wish to adopt those as your supplemental	
9		testimony in this case?	
10	Α.	Yes, I do.	
11	Q.	Thank you. Moving on to the fifth recommendation	
12		from the Coalition. Attorney Manzelli	
13		questioning.	
14		Would you please explain the	
15		Coalition's recommendation and reasoning behind	
16		its recommendation for net metering with respect	
17		to projects up to 100 kilowatt, which I believe	
18		we have heard from your testimony is so-called	
19		net metering 3.0?	
20	A.	(Below) Yes, in general, the recommendation was	
21		to continue with the existing compensation	
22		structure for under 100 KW, but to also consider	
23		adjusting that default service rate from the full	

rate to the base rate, equivalent to the value of the energy capacity that may be produced.

In light -- in light of some of the back-and-forth and arguments in the settlement, I think that's sort of a lower priority at this point in time, because it doesn't have the risk of being an excessive and undue cost shift, just because it's a smaller order of magnitude.

And in one of the exhibits, which was a response to a discovery question, I believe, from the joint utilities or Eversource, they make the argument that a lot of smaller systems, particularly residential systems, do not produce RECs, and so you could think of the -- that difference as compensating them for the RECs that are used to help meet RPS obligations, so-called REC sweeping. So that helps mitigate the risk of undue cost shifting there.

Q. And just to -- Amy Manzelli speaking.

Just to keep the record clear,

Mr. Below, are you referring to Exhibits 16 and
17 in your prior statement?

A. (Below) Yes.

2.3

Q.	Thank you. All right. To the Coalition's sixth
	recommendation. Please explain the Coalition's
	recommendation for energy storage,
	interconnection, and the reasoning.

A. (Below) Okay. Clifton responding.

The significant thing that I want to note here -- and maybe this is anticipating rebuttal, some arguments that, you know -- that the legislature has specifically said, you can have storage as part of net metering. Although the Commission has found it has the authority to allow such, at least in Liberty's battery pilot, it is also true that the legislature made a significant change, after this docket had initiated, to allow the Commission to enable battery storage as a result of -- through tariffs not just through rules.

Previously, the law said it had to be done through rules. The legislature changed that. It went into effect roughly a year ago that, the Commission can do it through an order and adjudicated proceeding, and it can be reflected in tariffs.

So the significance of our recommendation at this point is that the Commission should go ahead and ask, in their -as a condition of the Settlement Agreement, that the utilities work with parties to start to develop tariffs that would enable, to some extent, battery storage to be coupled with distributed generation, particularly projects at scale, because it's these 1 to 5 megawatt projects that can potentially produce a great deal of value, as described in the VDER study, by being coupled with storage, by helping to shift what might be overproduction around solar noon to when it is the most valuable and needed later in the day, and to help sort of smooth the duck curve, if you will, of too much in the -- around solar noon and not enough later in the afternoon and evening. Q. Thank you. Amy Manzelli questioning. And the legal change that you were talking about earlier, Mr. Below, is that now codified at RSA 374-H:2?

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Α.

(Below)

Yes.

Q. Thank you. All right. We'll move on to

Recommendation No. 7. What is the Coalition's recommendation for implementation, and then, why?

2.3

A. (Below) Well, our recommendation is,
essentially, working with the baseline of the
settlement to continue the current structure in
the near term, although not necessarily for two
more years, or three or four, depending on how
long it takes to resolve the next set of
proposals; but rather, to begin sort of
selectively implementing those components that
are easiest and perhaps will minimize customer
confusion.

I would submit that larger projects over 100 KW, those customer generators are typically sophisticated enough to understand concepts. Like, they may not -- the compensation may be less than full default service rate, for instance, for their energy, then you pass the output. So the issue of bill confusion really doesn't apply to them. So I think that that's illustrative of what I think the Commission could do here.

And of course, the other key opportunity, where Unitil has -- is completing their AMI update, interval data is available for all customers. Liberty can do it, to some extent, with time-of-use. Those two utilities are in a position to go ahead and start making some of these -- better price signals available through time-of-use rates or potentially by providing credit based on actual performance.

2.3

And I think that's what a market structure -- which we desire to see this developed in a competitive marketplace, where you actually pay for performance, rather than just a regulatory projection of what might be produced.

Q. And where the Coalition differs from -- Amy
Manzelli questioning.

And where the Coalition differs from the Settlement Agreement is that the Settlement Agreement would push some of these measures into a potential future, and the Coalition would have some of these measures coming out of the order --coming out of this docket right now; is that correct?

A. (Below) Correct.

Q. And what you heard earlier, just with respect to time-of-use, you heard the Department of Energy panel testify -- I think I understood this correctly -- that time-of-use rates were available for customers right now.

Did you hear that earlier? Like, what is your understanding on that?

A. (Below) Yes, to a limited degree. My
understanding is Unitil does offer a whole-house
time-of-use rating. And my understanding is
there's also probably been limited uptake of
that, but some, because we know that there's some
customers with that that we can't serve because
of data issues and settlement issues.

In Liberty's case, I believe it's pretty much limited to the battery pilot, but --but that's not actually true. The same kind of time-of-use -- three-part time-of-use rate structure has been made available for EV charging. It's just not clear if that could be coupled with net metering at this point.

But they did, in their distribution

rate case, propose to move to use the same kind of three-part -- cost-causation based, three-part time-of-use rate, make that available on a residential, for a whole house, which could include net metering, as well as for small businesses.

And I think the Commission could send a signal that we don't have to wait another three years to be considering this, when we actually have some structure that we could start to do it sooner than later, even if it's only on a limited basis, which it probably would be if people were doing it on an opt-in basis.

Q. Okay. Now, I don't want everyone to get excited that this is the last question, because we're moving into the eighth recommendation, because we are going to talk just briefly about the settlement and some statutory provisions, but eighth and final with respect to the recommendations.

What other recommendations does the Coalition have, and what is the reasoning behind it? Is there anything else that you wish to

1 mention before we move along to the settlement? 2 Α. (Below) Clifton responding. 3 I think the main one there is that we were supportive of the DOE's time-of-use proposal 4 and -- and that that would be an appropriate 5 thing for the Commission to do in this 6 7 proceeding. 8 Q. I will touch on the Settlement Agreement. 9 already touched on many portions of it, and, you 10 know, it may or may not have affected the 11 Coalition's recommendations. 12 Is it fair to say the Coalition does 13 support maintaining net metering 2.0 as the 14 status quo? 15 Clifton responding. Α. 16 Yes, with the provision that after -some date certain after the order is issued, say 17 January 1 of next year, that those ones that 18 continue on the status quo, particularly over 1 19 20 megawatt, potentially 100 KW to 1 megawatt, be 21 given an indication that, yes, they can have a 22 20-year legacy period, but within that period, 2.3 that they may be required to transition to a

- structure based on either actual or time-of-use 1 2 credit for avoided transmission costs and a lower compensation rate for their energy default 3 service. 4 And there is a possibility that that could result 5 Q. in better and more accurate compensation? 6 7 Α. (Below) Yes. And more customer choice overall? 8 Q. 9 (Below) Α. Yes. Does the Coalition agree with the settlement 10 O. 11 proposal for application fees? 12 Α. (Below) Yes. We support the proposal for 13 application fees, as presented in the Settlement 14 Agreement, and would recommend that be approved, 15 and moves us towards more just and reasonable 16 rates. 17 Ο. If the settlement were to be approved, just to state it clearly on the record, would the 18 19 Coalition like to participate as a stakeholder in
  - A. (Below) Yes, and I believe the record would show that myself, at the time on behalf the City of Lebanon, made substantial contributions to the

the data collection?

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data development and Liberty's development of time-of-use rates, in collaboration with both the utility and the Consumer Advocate's expert witness.

- Q. And even if -- let's just accept for the purposes of -- this is Amy Manzelli questioning -- for the purpose of this question, accept the assumption that the Commission were to accept and order all of the Coalition's recommendations. You would agree with the testimony of the OCA by Mr. Woolf and Mr. Borden from Synapse, which is marked as Exhibit 4, that establishing a balanced distribution generation compensation mechanism is not a, quote, set-it-and-forget-it endeavor, and that the Commission would, therefore, be reviewing net metering again in, you know, say, two to four years?
- A. (Below) Yes. As exhausting as this seems to be at times, I do think the legislator -- the legislature has indicated that they want sort of, kind of, a continuous -- more or less continuous, or at least periodic, revisiting of what we're doing, so we make sure we get it as accurate and

1 as fair as possible. 2 Q. Thank you. Amy Manzelli questioning. And do you agree with their testimony 3 4 that that frequency is at least every three 5 years? More or less. I mean, three years might 6 Α. (Below) 7 be a little too frequent, except there's some things that need to be updated on an ongoing 8 9 basis, like making sure time-of-use rates 10 continue to reflect underlying cost foundations. 11 So something like that needs more frequency --12 you know, it's already on at least an annual 13 basis to revisit those, so yes. 14 And with that backdrop, the Coalition feels that Ο. 15 now is the time for changes to net metering, 16 given that the current status quo has been in 17 place for more or less seven years? Clifton speaking. 18 Α. (Below) Amy Manzelli questioning. 19 Q. 20 In other words, the Commission has the 21 opportunity right now to make incremental 22 advances, based on the information now known, and 2.3 then make more changes later, upon a routinized

1		regular review?
2	Α.	(Below) Clifton. Agreed.
3	Q.	Okay. Quick look at RSA 362-A:9. You're
4		familiar with that statute?
5	Α.	(Below) Very, yes.
6	Q.	And what is your understanding of the words in
7		Section XVI (a): The Commission, quote, shall
8		continue to develop and periodically review new
9		alternative net metering tariffs?
10	Α.	(Below) I think Clifton speaking.
11		It I believe that imposes a
12		mandatory duty to have periodic review.
13	Q.	And do you agree that in that same line, the same
14		statute, it also says, quote, "may include other
15		regulatory mechanisms and tariffs for customer
16		generators."
17		And then it goes on to include a whole
18		list of things?
19	Α.	(Below) Yes.
20		MR. TAYLOR: Commissioners, I'm
21		actually going to object to those questions,
22		because they're calling for legal conclusions,
23		interpretations of a statute.

1	Mr. Below is clearly, he's a smart
2	guy. He's not an attorney. And in any event,
3	it's not appropriate for a witness to offer legal
4	conclusions on the stand.
5	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Is it possible to
6	be a smart guy and not an attorney?
7	MR. TAYLOR: That's not what they told
8	us at law school.
9	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you.
10	So it's sustained. Attorney Manzelli,
11	if you'd like to ask any more questions, you're
12	welcome to, but
13	MS. MANZELLI: Well, Commissioner, I
14	would like to respond an opportunity to
15	respond to the objection.
16	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Please do.
17	MS. MANZELLI: I'm asking Mr. Below,
18	in his capacity as a former Commissioner, to
19	explain how he would interpret this, were he
20	sitting in a Commissioner's chair, understanding
21	what his duties were.
22	MR. TAYLOR: That doesn't change the
23	objection. It's still calling for a legal

1 Whether it's in his capacity as a conclusion. 2 former Commissioner or any other capacity, it's 3 not appropriate. 4 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Yeah, I'll -- I'll agree with Attorney Taylor. 5 Let's wrap up, Attorney Manzelli, and I think -- I think then 6 7 I'll add -- at the conclusion, I'll ask the DOE 8 and the joint parties for an estimate of their questions to efficiently manage this afternoon. 9 10 But if you could wrap up, Attorney Manzelli, that 11 would be great. 12 MS. MANZELLI: Thank you. BY MS. MANZELLI: 13 14 Mr. Below, so ordering some or all of the Ο. 15

- Q. Mr. Below, so ordering some or all of the

  Coalition's recommendations through a phased-in

  approach, (indiscernible) more compensation, that

  net metering compensation to be better, smarter,

  and more accurate in ways that minimize the risk

  of subsidization and undue cost shifting for

  non-NEM customers; is that the crux and essence

  of your testimony here today?
- 22 A. (Below) Yes, it is.

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Q. Is there anything else that you wish to add to

1		your testimony today?
2	А.	(Below) No. We can conclude here.
3		MS. MANZELLI: Thank you. No further
4		questions. The witness is available.
5		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. So it's
6		12:15, so we'll take lunch here briefly. But
7		first, I'd like to check with the Department in
8		terms of sort of a time estimate of the questions
9		that the Department has.
10		MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig. I hate
11		to disappoint the Commission, because I know you
12		said you were looking forward to cross from the
13		Department, but at the moment, I don't believe we
14		have anything. If that changes over lunch, I
15		will let you know.
16		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Take as long
17		as you need.
18		So the joint parties, do you
19		anticipate any questions, and if so, how long?
20		MS. CHIAVARA: We do have questions.
21		How long, I imagine, will be dependent in part on
22		the answers, but I have three or four pages of
23		questions.

1	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. So would you
2	say an hour would you say is
3	MS. CHIAVARA: I'll read it as fast as
4	I can, but we'll try to get it done in an hour.
5	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: We're not in any
6	rush after lunch.
7	Okay. So three or four pages of
8	questions, though, seems like it would be
9	seems like there would be a fair amount.
10	The Commissioners have, I think, a few
11	questions, so that that's probably another
12	hour.
13	So let's let's take a take lunch
14	now. Let's return at 1:00 p.m. and conclude the
15	hearing this afternoon. Off the record.
16	(Luncheon recess taken.)
17	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: We're back on the
18	record, and begin with DOE cross.
19	Ms. Ladwig?
20	MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig.
21	Apologies, Mr. Chairman. No cross from DOE.
22	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. And we'll
23	move to the joint parties.

1	MS. CHIAVARA: I just wanted to let
2	you know, Liz will be here momentarily.
3	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Yeah. So it
4	won't go as smoothly.
5	MR. TAYLOR: It may go smoother.
6	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. While
7	Mr. Below is getting settled in, does do the
8	joint utilities plan on presenting a rebuttal
9	panel today?
10	MS. CHIAVARA: We would like to do
11	that, yes, but we're making it as mercifully
12	brief as possible.
13	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. We'll judge
14	as we go through the day, but depending on how
15	things go, we may need to the continue the
16	hearing, which, if that's necessary, then we'll
17	do that, but we'll we'll just see how things
18	go. So, yeah, please proceed, Attorney Chiavara.
19	MS. CHIAVARA: Thank you.
20	CROSS-EXAMINATION
21	BY MS. CHIAVARA:
22	Q. Jessica Chiavara.
23	Mr. Below, bear with me for a moment.

1		My first question is a little lengthy, because
2		I'm going to read some passages from your
3		testimony, starting with your rebuttal testimony
4		on page 6, lines 16 through 20, and pages 10,
5		lines 16 through 20. And then all of pages 11
6		through 14.
7		Those passages seem a little less like
8		fact-based testimony, and to the extent that you
9		do describe facts, they are short done so in
10		the service of legal analysis and legal
11		conclusions, including on page 6, quote, that net
12		metering is a monopoly utility function, and
13		that, quote, discontinuing that function would be
14		consistent with New Hampshire policy and law.
15		And then beginning on page 10 and
16		continuing with your page 14 sorry. Am I
17		moving too fast?
18	Α.	(Below) Yes. Excuse me. Clifton speaking.
19		I'm still on page 6. I'm not sure
20		what lines you're oh.
21	Q.	I'm just reading some quotes from here.
22	Α.	(Below) Okay.
23	Q.	So beginning on page 10 and continuing through

1	page 14, the testimony alleges that Eversource
2	acted outside the law; quote: Such dual
3	participation in state jurisdictional net
4	metering, while also selling the power into the
5	ISO New England market, should never have been
6	allowed in the first place, end quote.
7	This was a course of action that was
8	approved and directed and directed to be
9	continued by the Commission.
10	Testimony then proceeds to state,
11	based on the following quote:
12	"If that power is being sold into the
13	ISO New England market, then FERC-approved
14	tariffs and ISO New England operating procedures
15	prohibit that same generation from being used to
16	offset electricity requirements on the
17	distribution grid, making the definition a legal
18	fiction, requiring New Hampshire suppliers to
19	purchase the entire load of such customers from
20	ISO New England without any offset."
21	And from there, the passage dictates
22	what the Commission's responsibilities and
23	obligations are.

I'm sorry. I read the wrong quote:

The Commission has the responsibility to approve only those tariffs and terms and conditions for -- for net metering that are consistent with both state and federal law. A net metering or regulation that allows for compensation to generators participating in FERC jurisdictional markets in excess of FERC-approved market rates may be impermissible and preempted by federal law.

And then recommends a course of action

that, quote: The PUC prohibit net metered generators from also selling their power and capacity into the ISO New England market by refraining from registering as generators with ISO New England or retire after fulfilling or discharging any capacity supply obligations in order to continue participating in net metering.

Alternatively, the Commission could simply prohibit any compensation for transmission costs to such generators and require an annual calculation as to how much avoided transmission costs that New Hampshire has forgone as a result

of such continued participation in both markets, which would be deducted from their energy compensation.

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Would you agree as a -- at a high level and as a general matter, that this is legal analysis that attorneys could probably defer as to the conclusion of?

A. (Below) Clifton responding. Clifton Below.

There's certainly substantive legal issues there, and that's true. I think what you asked is true. I also think law and policy are closely interrelated. And as somebody who has worked in the realm of developing and writing law, including some of the language that's cited here, as a policy matter, that I offer perspective in terms of how to look at the law in terms of New Hampshire law and policy.

Q. Thank you for that explanation. And I agree, law and policy are -- sorry -- Jessica Chiavara -- law and policy are very closely connected, but -- and I'm -- I'm not trying to eliminate this entirely from the record. But taking into consideration that the analysis contains an

1	allegation that Eversource acted contrary to law,
2	which is a course of action that the Commission
3	endorsed, and also makes a legal recommendation
4	to the Commission for a corresponding course of
5	future moving action. I I would ask the
6	Commission to either to move these issues into
7	legal briefing. Maybe add it to the list of
8	legal briefing.
9	Again, I'm not trying to remove that
10	portion of your testimony from the record
11	entirely, Mr. Below, just that that the
12	attorneys representing the parties get an
13	opportunity to also provide their opinions on
14	those issues.
15	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: All right, Attorney
16	Chiavara, because that was a rather lengthy
17	question. Would you like to would you like to
18	put an encapsule it now or wait till the end
19	of the hearing to summarize what you would
20	what you'd like to
21	MS. CHIAVARA: I can boil it down for
22	you quickly.
23	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay.

1		MS. CHIAVARA: So, yeah, I yes,
2		I'll make a recommendation, because there's some
3		exhibits as well that I would add to that, to be
4		moved to briefs.
5		BY MS. CHIAVARA:
6	Q.	So moving on from that, you said during direct
7		exam that that the recommendations of the
8		Settlement Agreement could result in unjust and
9		unreasonable cost shifts.
10		Have you done any analysis to support
11		that assertion?
12	A.	(Below) Yes.
13	Q.	Is that in the docket?
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	Can you identify where it is in the docket?
16	Α.	(Below) Give me a few minutes. In part, it's in
17		both Exhibit 13 and 14, and in Exhibit as well
18		as in some of the attached exhibits or related
19		exhibits.
20		In my direct testimony, I gave some
21		illustrations of the potential impact of of
22		this issue.
23	Q.	Sorry, "this issue" being?

1	Α.	(Below) Well
2		MS. MANZELLI: Commissioner, I'm going
3		to object at this point. This is attempting to
4		answer the standing question, which is what
5		evidence in his testimony supports his assertion
6		that the settlement would result would not
7		result in just and reasonable costs?
8		THE WITNESS: (Below) And
9		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Attorney Chiavara?
10		MS. CHIAVARA: I'm not sure I don't
11		understand the nature of the objection. I'm not
12		sure that I yeah, I don't understand. Is the
13		objection to the question?
14		MS. MANZELLI: There's a standing
15		question that the witness hasn't had a chance to
16		answer. The questioner is not giving the witness
17		an opportunity to answer the question.
18		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Let's
19		let's start over again. And maybe frame the
20		or ask your question again, Attorney Chiavara.
21		MS. CHIAVARA: I the question
22		stands. I think he's free to answer the
23		question.

1		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay.
2		THE WITNESS: (Below) Okay. Clifton
3		speaking here.
4		In Exhibit 13, on page 24, there's a
5		question: Can you illustrate the unreasonable
6		cost shift and how this can result in duplicate
7		compensation for NEM 2.0 customer generators?
8		And there is some factual analysis to
9		support that concern here. It continues on page
10		25 and 26 and 27, to some extent, and further
11		evidence is provided in Exhibit 14 I'm sorry,
12		Exhibit 15. Just to be clear, that was a
13		mistake. Exhibit 15, 16, 17 17.
14		BY MS. CHIAVARA:
15	Q.	And that's when you said "this issue," were
16		you speaking to removal of the RPS compliance
17		costs?
18	Α.	(Below) Yes.
19	Q.	So that so, specifically, the analysis was to
20		remove all of the RPS compliance costs; is that
21		correct?
22	Α.	(Below) Yes.
23	Q.	Okay.

- 1 And if I may, I'm reminded that Α. (Below) Yes. 2 that -- that that's where that correction that I 3 mentioned early on in my testimony, is on page 24 of Exhibit 13 at Line 15, where there's an 4 illustrative calculation of the cost shift, and 5 it will reference on Line 15 to 3,000 KWH times 6 7 8 cents, and that should have an eight-tenths of But the resulting calculation is 8 a cent. 9 correct.
  - Q. Thank you. So you recommended, during direct exam, that the Commission create a stakeholder working group to explore how to implement FERC Order 2222. I didn't see FERC Order 2222 discussed in your testimony, and I don't recall it being discussed over the course of this docket.

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So are you making this recommendation for the first time today, without the parties being able to, obviously, weigh in on whether or not this -- such a group is merited and what the scope of that group's charge would be?

A. (Below) Well, to clarify -- Clifton speaking -I think what I was saying is more the effect of

looking at load settlement in -- and how that could be changed in New Hampshire that would be potentially in alignment with FERC Order 2222 and some of the implications that that presents to --to the future of how load settlement is done. Do you agree that that was a new Q. Okay. recommendation that had not been previously discussed in this docket? 

A. (Below) Well, the recommendation around changing load settlement was. Just the -- the fact that there's a parallel with FERC Order 2222 is relevant.

And perhaps in our follow-up brief, we can make -- request administrative notice of another proceeding, Liberty's distribution rate case, in which case this was specifically discussed in the context of load settlement and opportunities to take advantage of how load settlement software is starting to evolve, in anticipation of FERC Order 2222.

So that is a different case, but it's just -- it is a relevant portion that is relevant to the question of --

Q. I'm sorry, I -- but this was -- this is a new -- it was a new recommendation made today, correct?

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A. (Below) Well, the main recommendation is to have a stakeholder group to begin to explore or have the Commission direct the utilities to consider -- to start to figure out what the requirements and the cost would be to change load settlement.

And that, I think, is consistent with my original testimony on the matter, as well as rebuttal testimony.

- Q. Okay. Thank you. Also, during direct exam, you mentioned that net meter exports from customer generators are currently not accounted for. But isn't it true that those exports are, in fact, currently accounted for in what is called a load settlement -- the residual calculation, where total exports for utilities -- all the customer exports across the utility service territory are allocated to suppliers according to their share of the total load in that utility service territory?
- A. (Below) Right. And from what I understand, the

residual -- Clifton speaking -- the residual is for unaccounted-for energy. So by definition, the treatment of it as unaccounted for, because there isn't -- it's not accounted for. I mean, literally -- and this is attached as an exhibit in my testimony. I made data requests to just understand what the total exports to the grid were. This is Exhibit 13, pages 71 and 72. And Eversource was not able to account for exports to the grid by NEM 1.0 customers in their large power billing system, and just asserted that that would be too burdensome to try to account for that.

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So it was literally -- we couldn't even account for it in discovery.

Q. Right. But that's slightly different than

what -- the question that I asked. I was asking

specifically about load settlement. And in load

settlement, there is a calculation called the

residual, where total exports -- customer exports

for utility service territory are calculated and

then allocated to suppliers according to their

percentage of the total load sharing service

- 1 territory; is that correct? 2 Α. (Below) Clifton speaking. 3 Yes. I understand that to be correct, 4 yes. 5 Thank you. From 2020 to 2023, Eversource Q. received nearly 11 million in ISO New England 6 7 revenue from registered customer generator 8 facilities that net meter, and that that revenue 9 directly offset approximately 12.5 percent of 10 Eversource's total net metering costs for those 11 years. 12 You are proposing that the Commission 13 prohibit customers from registering with ISO New 14 England and eliminating that revenue stream; is 15 that correct? 16 (Below) Clifton speaking. Α. 17 Yes, because that revenue stream --18 Q. Excuse --I need to qualify it. 19 Α. That revenue 20 stream is less than the value that they would 21 produce as a (indiscernible) reducer.
  - Q. And I think that that is a topic that could be disputed, but yes, thank you.

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1 If all the states in New England 2 suspended all ISO registration, as you're recommending is done for New Hampshire, given the 3 current levels of distributed generation sources 4 in each of the New England states, wouldn't New 5 Hampshire transmission costs increase? 6 7 (Below) Potentially, yes, but it depends on how Α. much of it out there is like that. 8 And I -- and I provide it in my testimony. 9 10 For instance, Vermont, it appears that 11 virtually nothing gets registered in that realm. 12 But apparently, Massachusetts does, and that 13 comes up in one of the discovery questions. 14 And to the extent Massachusetts or New 15 Hampshire, a quick -- quick -- having dual 16 participation in the state jurisdiction net metering and federal jurisdictional wholesale 17 markets, yes, that would -- if there isn't 18 compensating beneficial electrification, then it 19 would shift around the cost allocation of 20 21 transmission; that's true. 22 Q. Okay. Thank you. Give me just a moment. 23 So I want -- I'd like to turn Okav.

1		to your recommendation regarding transmission
2		credits.
3		Your testimony seems to suggest like a
4		bespoke credit that's designed on an individual
5		customer basis credit; is that correct?
6	Α.	(Below) Clifton speaking. That's correct.
7	Q.	I'm sorry. I have not been introducing myself.
8		I apologize. Jessica Chiavara.
9		In Exhibit 13 on page 30, you state:
10		Individual calculation for actual avoided
11		transmission credit for large customer generators
12		is simple enough and could initially be done
13		manually, if necessary, and perhaps only
14		quarterly or annually until automated, end quote.
15		And then you stated something similar
16		during direct exam, speculating as to how perhaps
17		large projects could somehow pay for manual
18		efforts issuing these credits.
19		Have you inquired with the utilities
20		as to how simple or not manual billing for large
21		customer generators would be?
22	Α.	(Below) I have not inquired.
23	Q.	Okay. Have you inquired within each of the

1		utilities as to different abilities or
2		constraints for offering custom individual
3		credits for large customers?
4	Α.	(Below) This is a little bit difficult because,
5		on a confidential basis, there has been
6		discussion with one utility about this issue, but
7		I can't really go into it because it's
8		confidential, in a confidential context.
9	Q.	But not all three of them?
10	Α.	(Below) But not all three, correct.
11	Q.	And regarding the reference about the credit only
12		being charged annually or changed sorry,
13		annual Jessica Chiavara, sorry annually or
14		quarterly, have you checked with the utilities to
15		see if this frequency is reasonable, given the
16		current rate changes that they already have to
17		make over the course of a year?
18	Α.	(Below) Clifton speaking. No.
19	Q.	Okay. And you also the reference to you
20		made reference to about, until the process was
21		automated.
22		Do you know if individually calculated
23		transmission credits can be automated?

A. (Below) Clifton speaking.

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I don't know for a fact, but I think

most -- with enough effort, almost any data

processing could be automated. And I've just

observed, this is a pretty darn simple

calculation, even on a bespoke basis. It's just

looking up, from interval data that's time

stamped, what the output was at the hour of

coincident peak demand for each month and

multiplying that by a well-known, actually

published, RNS rate.

- Q. Yes, and then programming it into the three utilities, all different billing systems, however those three different billing systems may operate?
- 16 A. (Below) that -- that would be what automation would entail, yes.
  - Q. Sir, have you ascertained the cost for Unitil billing and staff resources for offering this type of crediting?
    - A. (Below) No. That's why the recommendation today in my testimony was that the first step in considering this, moving forward, is to convene a

1		stakeholder group to discuss what would be
2		involved, and then solicit potential proposals or
3		to develop some sense of what it might cost to
4		implement that. And that that having an
5		understanding of the cost would be beneficial for
6		the Commission to determine how how, and
7		exactly when, to implement such a change.
8	Q.	Okay. And assuming that there would be
9		incremental costs, just for the sake of the
10		question Jessica Chiavara would those
11		incremental costs be passed on to customers,
12		effectively increasing the cost of net metering?
13	Α.	(Below) Again, it depends, because there's
14		potential significant savings related to that for
15		a customer.
16	Q.	But these costs assuming that those costs, the
17		incremental costs, would how would those
18		costs would those costs be passed on to all
19		customers, socialized across all customers?
20	Α.	(Below) It depends
21		MS. MANZELLI: Objection. The
22		question's already been answered.
23		MS. CHIAVARA: I I think it

1 could --2 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: The Commission would appreciate a clarification, so you can go 3 ahead and answer it, Mr. Below. 4 THE WITNESS: (Below) Well, that is 5 to be determined. It is possible that those 6 7 costs could be recovered in some way from the 8 suppliers or from projects, as opposed to general 9 rate base. 10 But I would simply observe that the 11 regulating distribution utilities are the owner 12 and operators of the distribution system, which 13 is the platform to support retail and state jurisdictional and federal jurisdictional market 14 15 transactions. 16 And New Hampshire law calls for the utilities and the -- and the Commission, in the 17 18 regulation of utilities, to move towards 19 market-based solutions as much as possible; and 20 specifically, the purpose statement of RSA 369-A, 21 when it was -- when net metering was first 22 enacted -- and I know this, because I was the

prime sponsor -- specifically changed the purpose

23

statement with statute to say that these services
should be moved to a competitive market-based
paradigm, rather than the traditional method of
just having the utility as a monopoly provide net
metering services.

And I think this is where New
Hampshire is unique compared to the other states,
because the other states have simply, from my
impression, accepted that this is just a monopoly
function. New Hampshire law clearly states -and -- and have been reiterated -- that this
should be an option for competitive suppliers and
community power aggregations to be able to serve
their metered customers.

And that's why I think we need to move towards more sort of market-based price signals that can allow other parties to serve net metering customers and offer potential value streams that utilities can't, such as, long-term contracts, which could potentially benefit in a lot of ways, because we'd be moving net metered customers off of default service and get rid of some of these cost-shifting issues.

BY MS. CHIAVARA:

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Q. I only have a couple of questions -- two, actually. Jessica Chiavara.

But you just mentioned market-based solutions. However, if we are making some of those changes, like the recommendations that you made today, through changes to utility billing systems, the incremental costs of which would be passed on to all ratepayers, isn't that more of a regulatory intervention rather than a market solution?

- A. (Below) Well, the market can't work without the platform that the distribution owner/operator -- distribution system operator operates, like the data systems and the settlement systems. Those are necessary components of supporting customer choice and a competitive market.
- Q. Thank you. So last question. Jessica Chiavara.

On Tuesday, you heard Mr. Rice on the settlement panel discuss the issue of customer confusion with net metering bills, noting that all three of the electric utilities have data that net metering customers struggle to

understand their bill and wish their bill was 1 2 simpler, and -- and that it is a -- not an insignificant problem. 3 4 During direct exam, you speculated that larger projects are sophisticated customers 5 who would not experience such confusion. 6 7 Do you have any data to support this 8 or to contradict Mr. Rice's testimony on Tuesday? 9 Well, I think the data is the Α. (Below) 10 recognition that larger products -- projects are 11 being developed by entities that are project 12 developers and have to understand a whole lot 13 more complex things than residential customers have. 14 15 I mean, I just think the evidence 16 is -- is apparent. It's sort of common knowledge that the bulk of customers net metering are 17 small, but a lot of the output and the potential 18 impacts are with very large systems. 19 20 Sir, so just to clarify the answer, you don't Q. 21 have any data per se? 22 I will say that we -- yes, in a sense, Α. (Below) 2.3 we do have data. I know that the Coalition --

1	our customer service representatives experience a
2	high call volume and email volume related to
3	confusion about net metering, particularly trying
4	to understand why we can't serve net metered
5	customers.
6	And, in contrast, the developers that
7	are coming to us with proposals for 1 to 5
8	megawatts are saying they would have no problem
9	with the kind of more complex solutions that
10	we're suggesting in this proceeding and in
11	legislative initiatives and in the more complex
12	commercial constructs that can deal with more
13	complexity, without having to call customer
14	service representatives to understand billing
15	arrangements and I just think it's kind of a
16	self-evident fact.
17	MS. CHIAVARA: Okay. Thank you. That
18	is all the direct cross-examine that I have.
19	Jessica Chiavara. Sorry. Thank you.
20	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you.
21	Commissioner Goldner. We'll move to Commissioner
22	questions, beginning with Commissioner
23	Chattopadhyay.

BY CMSR: CHATTOPADHYAY:

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Q. Good afternoon. I'm going to go back to something I didn't fully comprehend, perhaps,

On the issue of grandfathering, did

you say that you -- you agree that it should

be -- it should be 20 years? You also said that

you also agree with the concerns that DOE had

Can you revisit that?

A. (Below) Yes. Clifton speaking.

I think that my point was CLE was advocating for less than 20 years -- just stick with 2040 -- as a way to address the concern about whether this really makes sense for the next 20 years for the out years.

And what I would suggesting was that by moving ahead and signaling, as part of your order in this proceeding, that certain changes are in the works, either on a mandatory basis or, potentially, on an opt-in basis, such as, a reduction from full default service to base, and credit for avoided transmission cost, and the ability to incorporate storage; that those would

mitigate the concern about providing a 20-year legacy structure, because we know that we're moving to try to minimize the cost shifting in both directions and make it more based on the value of services actually provided.

Q. Thank you for that.

On the discussion about the ability to manually or, perhaps in the future, automatically calculate the transmission credit for large customers. If there are implementation costs or incremental costs because, however those calculations are done, there will be some process to it, and the utility will bear some costs.

Would you agree that there may be a way to also allocate those costs directly to the -- the NEM customer?

- A. (Below) Clifton speaking. Yes.
- 18 | Q. Okay.

2.3

A. (Below) And just to add, you know, I think
that's a very viable option, because the volume
of business that these large projects would be
doing would easily support, I believe, whatever
additional hours needed to be paid for to do this

manually, because it's simply not that many calculations, for instance, if it's just done quarterly or annually.

I mean, I constructed extensive spreadsheets based on actual interval data and did this, and it didn't take a huge amount of time, you know, except for the fact that I was dealing with 16,000 lines of data, so I had to make sure everything was right.

But when you start working with a lot of interval data, it becomes kind of routine in terms how you verify that you're looking at the right date now for it. It's -- you know, it's just -- fundamentally it's not that complicated, even to do it in big spreadsheets.

Q. I am going to have just one more question, and it's sort of conceptual, so I -- I'm not sure I will be able to articulate this as well as I would like to, but if you can capture the essence, it would be great if we can have this conversation.

So, then the energy component or, you know, in this case, you can call it the avoided

1		cost for energy that's being used to set the
2		compensation rate for large NEM customers per
3		kilowatt hours, is it set like it's one number
4		set annually right now?
5	А.	(Below) Clifton speaking.
6		It's it's not one annual number
7		set annually. The utilities receive monthly
8		bills in arrears, because you have to wait for
9		the month to close, and ISO New England
10		determined what the hour of coincident peak was,
11		and then they get a bill.
12		When I asked for the RNS rates
13	Q.	To be I'm talking about the energy component.
14	A.	(Below) Oh, the energy component. That is more
15		complicated. And I did not propose in our
16		testimony that we try to move the energy
17		component, because then that involves data for
18		every hour of the year, and that's, in essence,
19		not what we're offsetting.
20		I should say that, to the extent as
21		I described in my testimony, you're compensating
22		the net metering generator at the same rate as,
23		in effect, is being paid for just the default

1	service actual supply, not the RPS compliance
2	cost and such, but the equivalent of what's being
3	purchased from the wholesale market, but at
4	at retail, because it's grossed up for line
5	losses and such.
6	And, of course, the Commission is
7	moving towards a more market-based component for
8	that rate. You know, it's more based on day
9	ahead in real-time crisis.
10	That's gonna be as Mr. Davis
11	testified, that's going to be a good market proxy
12	until the day we can get more individualized
13	valuation, so and particularly when you
14	disassociate it from the parts that this that
15	aren't the service that's being provided.
16	And I'll just take an example in
17	your in Eversource's recent case with the
18	large customer group. You have a large
19	under-collection, that if it was to be covered
20	from the current large customer group, would
21	result in a 5 cent or so 5-cent-plus increase
22	in the default service rate.
23	Well, the generator has nothing to do

with that value, so it doesn't make sense to credit them at that full default service rate, which could include more than 5 cents of something that had nothing to do with the value of the power they created. They'd just get a windfall, because they're getting this full default service rate, which is not actually following the market.

So that's why I think the recommendation would mitigate against the risk, higher stranded costs or cost shifting, if you will, and actually, more closely to the high, the energy component to a market-based pricing.

- Q. So -- I understand. I think what I'm trying to get at is, currently, when the avoided cost of energy is set, which is what is -- I mean, it's -- it's a default service if it's -- you're a net -- if it's -- and it's the avoided cost if you're a net exporter, correct?
- A. (Below) Yes.

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Q. And so in the case of the net exporter, I'm asking, how is the avoided cost of energy set, meaning is it set at the same number for a long

period?

2.3

A. (Below) I see what you're saying. It -- it would be set as frequently as it changes. And most new projects that don't have existing load end up in the small customer group, because it's based on the consumption rather than their capacity to export. So you could, in theory, have a 4 megawatt solar project that is getting the six-month rate in the small customer group, because they just don't have much native load when they're not exporting. So that would be every six months, for as long as you set the default service rate.

If it happened to fit in the category of the large customer group -- some do, 'cause they have behind-the-meter load, or they have load that, you know, puts them in that class.

Then those rates would change monthly. And to the extent they're linked, either through competitive procurement or market-based prices, that -- that would pass through on a monthly basis.

O. And there could be significant efficiency gain,

1 in the event even more granular, meaning hourly 2 or daily? The Coalition -- I believe when 3 Α. (Below) Yes. 4 we've talked with developers about being potential off-takers, we're looking at the 5 value that they could offset. 6 7 And of course, we're looking to hedge, 8 to some extent, so we're not exposed to such volatility, and probably the developers too. 9 So 10 it's a lot like we do now with physical hedging, 11 which is interim to what's called IBT, internal bilateral transactions, where we're locking into 12 13 output for a fixed price, and sometimes that's 14 over-market and sometimes that's under-market, 15 but we have some security that it's not -- we're 16 not exposed to a high -- more risk than we can 17 handle, I'll put it that way. CMSR. CHATTOPADHYAY: 18 That's all I 19 have. Thank you. Commissioner Chattopadhyay 20 here. 21 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Commissioner Okay. 22 Goldner questioning. 2.3 BY CHAIRMAN GOLDNER:

Q. Mr. Below, could you help us understand why the Commission -- why the Coalition, rather, cares about the net metering rate inside CPCNH? You -- I think you can collect or charge any rate that you want, so I'm just trying to understand the Coalition's interest in this particular docket.

A. (Below) Well, many of our members have local policy goals that have been approved through their governing or legislative bodies to want to use more local renewable energy.

So a lot of our communities want to see projects developed. And I will take the City of Lebanon as an example. You know, we're hoping to bring online in the next few months a 1 megawatt landfill gas energy project to produce useful energy instead of just flaring it. We would like to be able to use that to serve Lebanon community power. It's not expected to ever export power to the grid, even with the other PT on the circuit, but there -- at the moment, there's no other option -- way to do that under New Hampshire law than through net metering.

1	So the compensation structure becomes
2	very important, as well as the fact that many,
3	many individuals in our communities have
4	expressed the desire to be served by their local
5	community power aggregation, but and although
6	the law says we're free to set our own terms and
7	conditions, we can't afford to pay for power
8	twice, which is the effective result if we don't
9	get credit in load settlement. And that's
10	partially why the issue's provoked. The law
11	says you know, expected the Commission to try
12	to settle this by the end of June 2022, if
13	possible, but it but it is also related to the
14	law that says, for competitive suppliers, it
15	shall be accounted for in its offset to their
16	obligation, with line loss adjustments as
17	determined by the Commission.
18	So we think that "shall" is an
19	imperative directive, and this needs to change,
20	so that we, and competitive electric power
21	suppliers and other community power aggregations,
22	can become an alternative an alternative to
23	the utility default service.

1 And as you heard, there is concern by 2 developers about the uncertainty of what that compensation is going to be in the future, and we 3 at least have the option of potentially doing 4 different forms of long-term contracts that can 5 6 be innovative and varied. 7 We have large C&I customers who have ambitious climate action goals, and we've been 8 told by numerous ones in our local communities 9 that they would love to be direct off-takers to 10 11 use power to offset their consumption with 12 locally generated renewables. 13 And we went as far as to get 14 legislation through the House with a unanimous 15 vote of the Science, Technology and Energy 16 Committee on Consent Calendar, House Bill 1600, that would have allowed community power 17 18 aggregations to do that precisely, essentially as an alternative to municipal hosting, up to 5 19 20 megawatts, to be able to use that power to

directly offset what they otherwise have to

purchase from ISO New England, and do that in a

way that doesn't involve the difficulty of trying

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- to figure out if the default service rate is the right compensation rate or not.
  - Q. So just using your example, in Lebanon today, of the 1 megawatt facility. So today, under the existing tariff, you would sell into -- I think you are -- are you Eversource?
- 7 A. (Below) No, Liberty.

- 8 Q. Liberty, sorry. I'm sorry.
- So are you -- you're selling into

  Liberty, and you're selling it at the default

  service rate for large customers?
  - A. (Below) No. I think we might end up in the small customer group, because the native load is -- puts us in the small customer group.
  - Q. So help me understand that. When you say "the native" -- if it's 1 megawatt, how does -- how do you end up in the small customer group?
    - A. (Below) And I -- and I'm not sure about this in this instance, their existing load for the gas -- gas collection system in the flare, and -- but my recollection is -- my recollection is that -- that we're in Q3. It might be that we're bumping up to G2, because it's possible -- I think that

1 that threshold is 100 KW -- KVA load, something 2 like that. (Indiscernible.) 3 Q. It's possible we'll move into the large customer 4 Α. I'm just not sure of that at the moment. 5 I do know that we have at least one 6 7 large solar array that is over 100 KW that is -that underline accounts in the small customer 8 group, so that's what we're --9 10 It seems logical, without going through the --O. 11 the details, that if you're 1 megawatt -- if 12 you're anything over 100 kilowatts, it seems like that would -- the natural place to be would be in 13 14 the large customer group. I think the -- my idea 15 of the impression -- or the intention of the law 16 was for the -- the small customer group to be sort of your residential, you know, solar panels, 17 and then everything else would be in the large 18 19 customer group. 20 So to the extent that there's some 21 mixing of those categories, that would be something to consider, I think. 22 23 Mr. Below, would you agree?

1	Α.	(Below) I would agree and there was some
2		confusion about this, as we had some of our
3		technical questions. But the bottom line, in
4		terms of looking at the tariff, the rate class
5		you go into is based on your average or maximum
б		consumption, not for transport. The sale price
7		being to some extent.

- 8 Q. Yeah, I was going to say, does that make sense to 9 you?
- 10 A. (Below) Personally -- you know, I haven't

  11 conferred with others in the Coalition, but

  12 personally, I'm not sure it makes sense that -
  13 yeah.

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- Q. And is that based on statute, or is that just based on longstanding practice, or how did we get to this place?
- A. (Below) I think it's one of those things that
  was never really thought about. And if I could
  give you one analogy of things that weren't
  thought about.

In the last net metering case, there was -- I don't believe there was any thought on the record, or in any technical sessions or any

1 settlement negotiations that I recall, that there 2 was any realization that we're going to change the RPS compliance obligation by changing the 3 4 compensation rate. Because under net metering 1.0, 5 original net metering, when you ran the meter 6 7 backwards, so to speak, such that, if you offset 8 your load exactly, if you produce exactly as much as you consumed over the year, at the end of the 9 10 year, you would have zero kilowatt hours 11 delivered, so you'd create zero RPS compliance 12 obligation. 13 But when we changed to the monthly compensation, you get -- you cash out. You get 14 15 your cash credit every month. And if you 16 produced, you know, all of your power in the summer half of the year, and re-consume that in 17 18 the winter, then the amount of power you consume in the months that you don't produce creates an 19 RPS obligation. 20 21 And that -- that's sort of the basis 22 of our recommendation that that, at scale, 2.3 becomes an undue, unnecessary cost shift, to say

1 that if you produce as much as you consume under 2 net metering 2.0, you create an RPS compliance obligation, but you don't contribute any money 3 towards that compliance obligation. But on top 4 of that, you may have made money from selling 5 RECs that is being other -- ratepayers are having 6 7 to pay to meet your RPS obligation. Because you 8 didn't contribute any money for it. And that 9 scales up at the -- at the larger municipal host 10 scale as well. 11 I'm just going to CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: 12 put a star next to this one, and looking at the 13 utilities, this would be an interesting one to get briefing on, because this idea that customer 14 15 class is based on incoming and not outgoing

utilities, this would be an interesting one to get briefing on, because this idea that customer class is based on incoming and not outgoing seems -- seems irrational, at least from the bench today, based on -- you know, you have these -- you have a 5 megawatt -- it sounds like you have a 5 megawatt producer that's taking some trickle charge to make the solar array, you know, stay in and, you know, keep the -- keep the solar pointed in the right direction. I'm thinking specifically of the Unitil array, and then

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1 you're -- you're sort of in a different customer 2 class than I think everyone would imagine you 3 should be in, because you're a 5 megawatt 4 producer. So if we could learn more about that 5 in a briefing, that would be very helpful, 6 7 because it sounds like you have perhaps have large producers classified as small, because of 8 what they're -- what they're bringing in, not 9 10 what they're pushing out. So I think we'd like 11 to learn more about how the customers are getting 12 (indiscernible). 13 BY CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: 14 Mr. Below, I'll turn to Exhibit 28, and just give Ο. 15 me a moment to get there. 16 I'm there. Α. (Below) 17 Ο. So I'm looking, again, at this 1 megawatt or There's 47 entities there, with the 18 greater. 19 vast majority, as you pointed out, I think, 20 earlier, of capacity. 21 And are these -- today, are these 22 customers/suppliers -- are they getting a net

metering rate today, or are they -- are they a

merchant supplier where they're selling it to the
market?

A. (Below) Clifton speaking.

- I don't have knowledge of that. My impression is that they're seeking a new interconnection. They're probably proposing new projects. Because I think if an existing hydro converts to net metering, they already have an interconnection, and it's just a question of qualifying for the net metering as a group host or a municipal host.
- Q. So you believe that those 47 customers are municipal hosts, for the most part? And if they're not today, they'll seek that status shortly?
- A. (Below) Right now, I think that's the only way they could interconnect. I won't be surprised if some of them are speculating that there will be a broader expansion that would not require the municipal host status, and they want to get in the queue. But I do not know that. I'm just speculating.
- O. And if there was one of those, they would just

1		be, as any other merchant supplier merchant
2		power supplier would, they would just be selling
3		directly into the market, if they weren't, you
4		suppose?
5	A.	(Below) Well, my guess, if they're seeking if
6		they're in the interconnection queue, they don't
7		exist yet. They're not selling in the
8	Q.	I see.
9	Α.	(Below) They're not existing merchant
10		generators. These are proposed in developments.
11	Q.	Okay. Okay. Thank you.
12		So just a high-level question relative
13		to the Coalition's proposal, as it relates to
14		rates. Does the Coalition believe that the net
15		meterer today is receiving too much or paying too
16		much?
17	А.	(Below) For the small customers under 100 or
18		up to 100 KW Clifton speaking I believe
19		it's it's pretty close to about right.
20		I think for over one you know, with
21		that, you know, one caveat that could be tweaked
22		on default service going to the base rate. But I
23		think for over 100 KW, they are not. They

1 they produce more value than they're compensated 2 I -- typically, based on the data I have, it is possible that a large system that was 3 shaded to the west and more eastern oriented 4 might be about right, because they don't really 5 produce avoided transmission costs. But again, 6 7 I'm just speculating. From the data I have, 8 every type of system that I could analyze with actual (indiscernible) data was creating avoided 9 10 transmission costs that they're not compensated 11 And the value -- the VDER study kind of for. 12 shows -- shows the same thing. 13 Thank you. Commissioner Goldner. 14 Is the goal of the Coalition's 15 proposal to reduce net meterer cost, ratepayer 16 cost, or is there some other goal that the Coalition has in mind for its proposal? 17 Clifton speaking. 18 Α. (Below) I think what -- what were the two 19 20 goals that you asked about? Lower cost --21 Lower cost for ratepayers or net meterers, or is Q. 22 there -- is it not cost related? What is the 2.3 goal of the Coalition?

A. (Below) I think there's parallel goals. We do
want to help our communities and customers save
money. And over our first year and four or five
months of operation, we have consistently offered
a base rate that is lower than the three
investor-owned utilities; and, most recently,
over the past year, lower than the Co-op as well.

So saving money is definitely a goal of the Coalition. At the same time, many of our communities and many individuals want to move towards more renewable energy. For many of our communities, it's about a more sustainable and resilient economic structure for their own long-term prosperity.

So we want to able to procure and see more utilization of community-scale distributed energy resources, but we want to see those projects developed in the most cost-effective, most beneficial way, in much the same way the legislator -- legislature has posited your objective, which is to maximize net benefits, while trying to minimize costs, essentially, or cost shifting -- undue cost shifting, to the

extent, you know, it's reasonably possible. And I think that's where "just and reasonable" comes into play.

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So we -- we -- and in general, we think that the discipline of a market-based procurement of market-based options will sort of function to serve the best interests of our communities. Like, if we screw up, our customers can choose to go somewhere else.

But if we're able to find solutions
that do both, that both accrue through our
resiliency and sustainability and do so at a cost
that's reasonable, and -- and just one thing I'll
understate. We do offer four levels with
enhanced renewable components, and -- and -- and
it's not a huge number, but some of our
communities are up -- you know, are seeing
significant uptake of those options, because they
want to support more local renewable generation.

Q. So moving back to the topic of this 20 years for grandfathering. It is -- it seems like an unusual concept to me. Like, if somebody in New Hampshire was building an apartment complex, they

would -- they would do a market analysis, and they would try to figure out what the rank could be and how much it would cost, and they would work all that out, and they would go to the bank, and they would -- they would borrow money, and they would build the apartment complex. But there's no rent guarantee or -- that would be a market-based -- market-based deal.

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And yet, here, we -- we have this idea that we need to guarantee what effective rent would be in order to get a loan from the bank, and I'm just having trouble with that.

A. (Below) Well, I think it relates to underlying risk factors, which are a little different than what financing entities are used to dealing with, which is specifically a combination of legislative risk and regulatory risk.

I think over time, those are mitigated. But certainly, over the past 20 years, there's been some controversy in some states around net metering, and so financiers are somewhat concerned that they'll go and finance a project with one set of assumptions, and then --

1 not that the market so much changes, but --2 because the compensation will change under the current net metering structure, it's not a 3 4 quaranteed revenue stream by any means. But if you know that you're going to 5 have a structure in which you can sell your 6 7 power, yes, but I think sometimes that's been 8 uncertain. There's still controversy, as you 9 know, in the jurisdictional docket whether, 10 outside of net metering, a local generator could 11 sell to a local consumer. That seems to be in 12 New Hampshire law, but it actually hadn't been 13 exercised, because there's controversy over the 14 jurisdiction. 15 So it would be next to impossible to 16 try to get a project financed as anything outside of that theory. So then the regulatory -- it 17 becomes a risk, and the -- and the Commission and 18 the legislature can always change. I mean, next 19 20 year, the legislature could repeal net metering. 21 But at this point, I think finance entities say, 22 well, that's not much of a risk. 2.3 But there is a risk that some

1 Commission in the future will drastically 2 consent -- change the compensation structure that is not really presenting a market risk. 3 4 It's a market structure or a regulatory structure So that's why I think the 20-years becomes 5 6 important. And I will say, you know, our landfill 8 gas to energy project, we -- we didn't have to 9 use that financing, because we were able to 10 use -- we didn't use revenue bonds. We used a 11 general obligation, and essentially self-funding 12 part of it, but with an expected -- our analysis 13 runs out over 20 years. 14 And it's also important because 15 anything -- even at 1 megawatt, we're needing to 16 pay about -- we are in a connection agreement 17 with Liberty, and it involves about a \$600,000 18 contribution for upgrades to their system, which -- which is a significant portion of the 19 20 total project costs. 21 And just one -- there was a question 22 early about how does that get accounted for. Ιt

gets account for as a contribution in aid of

1		construction, so it doesn't should not, and I
2		don't think it does, go into rate base. It's on
3		the books, but it's not and it does get
4		depreciated, but and there may be some tax
5		implications that are passed along to the
6		generator, but but it it
7		doesn't show up in rates.
8		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you.
9		Commissioner Chattopadhyay, did you
10		have any follow-up? All set?
11		Okay. We can move to redirect.
12		MS. MANZELLI: Thank you,
13		Commissioner. Amy Manzelli speaking. Very
14		brief. I'll get this ready.
15		REDIRECT EXAMINATION
16		BY MS. MANZELLI:
17	Q.	Mr. Below, Attorney Chiavara was asking you about
18		the FERC 2222 excuse me 2222 order, and I
19		just wanted to clarify. Did you ever mention
20		that, because Commissioner Chattopadhyay had
21		mentioned that in some of the questions?
22	Α.	(Below) Clifton speaking. Yes.
23	Q.	Okay. And so you weren't making a new

1		recommendation. You were just weaving that into
2		the existing load settlement recommendation; is
3		that correct?
4	A.	(Below) Clifton speaking.
5		That's correct. And I also thought
6		about the fact and I may have related the two,
7		that this was expressly discussed in Liberty's
8		distribution rate case testimony around the same
9		load settlement issue.
10	Q.	Is there anything that you wish to add to your
11		testimony here today?
12		This is Attorney Manzelli questioning.
13	Α.	(Below) There probably is, but I'll but I'll
14		hold it.
15		MS. MANZELLI: Attorney Manzelli.
16		Thank you, Mr. Below. We have no further
17		questions.
18		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Thank you,
19		Mr. Below. The witness is excused. We'll
20		just a moment.
21		We'll move now to the rebuttal panel.
22		After the testimony, as agreed on Tuesday, we'll
23		see if the other parties would like to provide

1	any surrebuttal testimony as well.
2	Start Attorney Chiavara, can you
3	please identify the witnesses you'll be calling
4	and what party they represent, and just confirm
5	that those witnesses were sworn in on Tuesday.
6	MS. CHIAVARA: I don't believe all of
7	them not all of them were sworn in on Tuesday.
8	I would ask, before we get to the full panel, if
9	we could take about 10 or 15 minutes to confer
10	with our clients.
11	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Sure. Of course.
12	Let's take a break now and return at 2:25. Off
13	the record.
14	(Recess taken.)
15	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Back on the
16	record. Attorney Chiavara.
17	MS. CHIAVARA: Thank you. Jessica
18	Chiavara. We placed the witnesses up in the
19	witness box. It's Brian Rice and Ed Davis, who
20	have both been sworn in. Jeff Pentz, from
21	Unitil, who I believe has not yet. And then Joe
22	Swift and Colleen Bennett from Eversource, who
23	have also not been sworn in yet.

1	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: All right. For the
2	witnesses that have not been sworn in, if you
3	could first identify yourself one by one.
4	MR. PENTZ: Hi. My name is Jeff
5	Pentz, Supervisor of Energy Supply from Unitil.
6	MR. SWIFT: Hi. Joe Swift, Eversource
7	Supervisor of Load Settlement.
8	MS. BENNETT: Hi. Colleen Bennett,
9	Manager of Settlement Analysis, Eversource.
10	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. Please
11	raise your right hand.
12	(Whereupon, JEFFREY PENTZ,
13	COLLEEN BENNETT, and JOSEPH SWIFT were
14	duly sworn by Chairman Goldner.)
15	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Thank you
16	the witnesses are ready for direct.
17	REBUTTAL DIRECT EXAMINATION
18	BY MS. CHIAVARA:
19	Q. All right. Since Jessica Chiavara.
20	Since Mr. Davis and Mr. Rice have
21	already been sworn in and qualified, I'll just
22	say, Mr. Davis, has anything changed on your
23	resumé that you'd like to update today since

- 1 Tuesday?
- 2 A. (Davis) No.
- 3 Q. Mr. Rice, same question for you.
- 4 | A. (Rice) No.
- 5 Q. Fantastic.
- Ms. Bennett, can you please state your name and the title of your role at Eversource.
- 8 A. (Bennett) Yes. Colleen Bennett, Manager of Load 9 Settlement Analysis.
- 10 Q. And what are the responsibilities of your role at 11 Eversource?
- 12 Q. (Bennett) I provide load settlement and load

  13 research services for the Eversource operating

  14 companies, including Public Service of New

  15 Hampshire.
- 16 Q. And have you ever testified before this
  17 Commission?
- 18 A. (Bennett) No, I have not.
- 19 Q. Regarding the January 30th, 2024, joint utility
- 20 rebuttal testimony, did you file testimony and
- 21 supporting attachments that are marked as
- 22 Exhibit 3?
- 23 A. (Bennett) Yes.

- Q. And were the testimony and supporting materials prepared by you or at your direction?
- 3 A. (Bennett) Yes.
- 4 | Q. And do you have any changes or updates to make?
- 5 A. (Bennett) No.
- Q. And so do you adopt the testimony today as it was written and filed?
- 8 A. (Bennett) Yes.
- 9 Q. Thank you.
- Turning to Mr. Swift. Mr. Swift, will

  you please --
- 12 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: I'm sorry, Attorney
  13 Chiavara, we wish to renew our awkward process of
  14 identifying as we go.
- MS. CHIAVARA: Yes. I will do that.
- 16 BY MS. CHIAVARA:
- 17 Q. Okay. Jessica Chiavara.
- Mr. Swift, will you please state your please state your name and title of your role at Eversource.
- 20 A. (Swift) My name is Joe Swift. My title is
  21 Supervisor of Load Settlement and Planning and
- 22 Operations for Eversource Energy.
- 23 Q. Jessica Chiavara.

1 What are the responsibilities of your 2 role at Eversource? 3 Joe Swift speaking. Α. (Swift) I have worked for Eversource for 25 4 5 years in energy efficiency and load settlement. I currently provide load settlement services to 6 7 the operating companies of Eversource, including Public Service of New Hampshire. 8 9 Jessica Chiavara. Q. Have you ever testified before this 10 11 Commission? 12 Α. (Swift) Yes, I testified in Docket 13 No. DE 17-136. Thank you. Jessica Chiavara. 14 Ο. 15 Did you file testimony and supporting 16 attachments as part of the filing on January 30th, 2024, marked as Exhibit 3? 17 18 (Swift) Yes, I did. Α. Were the testimony and supporting materials 19 Q. prepared by you or at your direction? 20 21 (Swift) Yes, they were. Α. 22 Do you have any changes or updates to make? Q.

2.3

Α.

(Swift)

No.

1 So do you adopt your testimony today as it was Q. 2 written and filed? 3 Α. (Swift) Yes, I do. 4 MS. CHIAVARA: Thank you very much. Jessica Chiavara. 5 REBUTTAL DIRECT EXAMINATION 6 BY MR. TAYLOR: 7 8 Q. Good afternoon. Patrick Taylor. 9 Mr. Pentz, would you please state your 10 name, employer, the position that you hold with 11 the company and your responsibilities in that 12 position. 13 (Pentz) Jeff Pentz speaking. Α. My name is Jeff Pentz, Supervisor of 14 15 Energy Supply for Unitil. My responsibilities 16 include default service procurement, REC 17 procurement, load settlement, as well as managing our retail supply services group. 18 19 Q. Patrick Taylor. 20 Have you ever testified before this 21 Commission? 22 (Pentz) Yes, on numerous occasions. Α.

23

Ο.

Patrick Taylor.

1		Did you file testimony and supporting
2		attachments as part of the filing the rebuttal
3		filing on January 30th, 2024, marked as Exhibit 3
4		in this docket?
5	Α.	(Pentz) Yes.
6	Q.	Patrick Taylor.
7		Were the testimony and supporting
8		materials prepared by you or at your direction?
9	Α.	(Pentz) Yes.
10	Q.	Patrick Taylor.
11		Are there any changes or updates you'd
12		like to make to your testimony today?
13	Α.	(Pentz) I do not.
14	Q.	Patrick Taylor.
15		Do you adopt your testimony today as
16		it was written and filed?
17	Α.	(Pentz) Yes, I do.
18		MR. TAYLOR: Thank you.
19		MR. SHEEHAN: If I could chime in and
20		have Mr. Garcia although he's not on our
21		panel, he was part of the testimony.
22		Where is he?
23		You need to get near a microphone.

1		REBUTTAL DIRECT EXAMINATION
2		BY MR. SHEEHAN:
3	Q.	Mr. Garcia, please state your name and your
4		position with Liberty.
5	Α.	(Garcia) Good afternoon. Robert Garcia, Manager
6		of Rates and Regulatory Affairs for Liberty.
7	Q.	Mike Sheehan.
8		Did you file testimony and supporting
9		attachments as part of what has become Exhibit 3?
10	Α.	(Garcia) This is Robert Garcia. Yes.
11	Q.	Mike Sheehan.
12		Was that part of the testimony you
13		were responsible for prepared by you or under
14		your direction?
15	Α.	(Garcia) Robert Garcia responding. Yes.
16	Q.	Do you have any changes or updates?
17	Α.	(Garcia) Robert Garcia responding. No.
18	Q.	Mike Sheehan.
19		Do you adopt your testimony today as
20		it was written and filed?
21	Α.	(Garcia) Robert Garcia responding. I do.
22		MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you.
23		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: We have a new

Thank you, Liberty. 1 outstanding benchmark. 2 Thank you. Well done. All right. Anything else before we go 3 to direct? 4 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, Commissioner, 5 Patrick Taylor. 6 7 On Tuesday, during the crossexamination of the joint witness panel for 8 9 utilities, there was a discussion of testimony from Docket 22-073, and neither of the witnesses 10 11 who are on that panel had been involved in that 12 docket or directly involved in that project. 13 Mr. Pentz is one of the witnesses 14 listed on that testimony, and to the extent that it may seem that I was trying to misstate that on 15 16 Tuesday, that is not the case. It became 17 apparent to me yesterday that Mr. Pentz was, 18 indeed, a witness on that testimony. 19 So I wanted to clarify the record, just so there's no confusion about that. 20 21 Everything else I said at the time, you know, 22 there were many witnesses on that testimony that 23 are not here today, and I think the question of

1 whether it should be administratively noticed is 2 still an appropriate one. But I wanted to make sure that was clear for the -- the record for the 3 Commissioners. 4 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you, Attorney 5 That'll be it? Anything else before we 6 Taylor. 7 move to direct? Seeing none, let's move to 8 Okay. 9 direct. FURTHER REBUTTAL DIRECT EXAMINATION 10 11 BY MS. CHIAVARA: 12 Ο. Thank you. Jessica Chiavara. 13 The first question is for Mr. Rice. 14 Mr. Rice, counsel for the Coalition asked Clean 15 Energy New Hampshire and the OCA witnesses on 16 Tuesday, and then again today asked Mr. Below, about not all kilowatt hours having the same 17 18 value. 19 So assuming, for purposes of this 20 question, that that -- the truth of that 21 statement, that not all kilowatt hours have the 22 same value, is there any justification for 2.3 treating all kilowatt hours as having the same

value?

A. (Rice) Yes, I believe there is. Yeah, that's -the settling parties testified, we believe, that
the evidence presented so far demonstrates that
the current structure, which provides a
consistent kilowatt hour of credit for any excess
generation produced by the customer generator
remains just and reasonable.

You certainly could make changes to -to have more precise pricing during any interval.

I actually can talk some more about those, but
it's important to recognize that there's
limitation (indiscernible) with that. I won't
bore you with that anymore.

So I think you're in a position of -and there's also potentially adverse effects of
differentiating kilowatt hours in a way that's
not helpful, which I can also talk about examples
of that.

So given the risks of any unintended outcomes and differentiation, given the costs of achieving that differentiation, I think those need to be balanced against the potential

1 benefits of having differentiated rates. And --2 and when we look at all those factors collectively, we think that the current, you 3 know, status quo achieves that appropriate 4 balance. We think it's -- it's a good balance. 5 It's easy for customers to understand. 6 7 commercially viable for the solar generation 8 market. And we don't want the product to be the enemy of the good. 9 10 Thank you. Jessica Chiavara. O. 11 Mr. Rice, Mr. Below testified today 12 that the settlement terms, specifically pertaining to the inclusion of RPS compliance in 13 14 the net metering credit is sufficient to rise to the level of an unjust or unreasonable cost 15 16 shift. 17 Do you agree, and do you feel the record supports this conclusion? 18 In the pre-filed rebuttal 19 (Rice) I do not. Α. testimony, the utilities addressed what we 20 believe were some miscalculations in the -- in 21 22 the original testimony of Mr. Below. The

Commissioners can review that at their pleasure.

2.3

1 I'm not getting into that here. 2 The other thing that I want to kind of come back to is on Tuesday, we testified that 3 it's really most important to look at the total 4 compensation rate when making a determination on 5 what is a, you know, just and reasonable net 6 7 metering structure. Not parsing individual 8 components. And that, you know, the evidence 9 does suggest that the current status quo results 10 in just and reasonable rates. 11 Mr. Below just recently testified that he thought the small customer generator 12 13 compensation structure was just about right and reasonable and fair. He also testified that he 14 15 thought the current structure undercompensates 16 large customer generators. If both those things are true, that 17 suggests to us that really, it's not necessary to 18 make adjustments, to take out the RPS credit at 19 20 this time. 21 I think the other thing that we wanted 22 to make sure the Commission was aware of is

there's a large number of small customer

23

1 generators that aren't bothering to register 2 their resources in the RPS market and take the opportunity to receive -- receive RECs to 3 interest credit in their accounting for those 4 customers, and what they're doing is -- it's a 5 term referred to as sweeping those RECs. 6 7 they're counting that generation from renewable 8 customers that aren't bothering to participate in the RPS market, and they were using that to make 9 10 a downward adjustment to RPS obligations that 11 lowers costs for all customers already. 12 So through that mechanism, there's a 13 value for RPS from many small customer 14 generators, that it's flowing through to all 15 customers. 16 Jessica Chiavara. O. Thank you. 17 Mr. Rice, today on direct exam, 18 Mr. Below represented that there's a large queue 19 of large products that may come online in coming 20 Do you think this is likely? years. 21 I mean, I can't predict the future, but I Α. (Rice) 22 think there's a lot of reasons to be skeptical of

As I previously indicated at the start of

23

that.

1 hearings, I manage distribution generation 2 programs in Massachusetts and Connecticut. just to give the Commission -- Commission some 3 data points, you know, a large customer 4 generator, so a project greater than 1 megawatt 5 right now in Massachusetts, it has access to a 6 7 total compensation rate of about 12 to 15 cents 8 per kilowatt hour. And, mind you, that's a fixed compensation rate that that project will have for 9 10 20 years. 11 Similarly, in Connecticut, we have a -- I'd say a competitively paid program for 12 13 distributed generation projects. The ceiling 14 price for that program -- or, again, for projects 15 1 megawatt or greater, is up to 14 and a half cents per kilowatt hour. And I can tell you most 16 of the bids don't come in far under that. 17 They're very closely -- they come pretty close to 18 that range, so a similar price range that is 19 20 supporting the market in those states. 21 And I will say, even at those price 22 levels, again, those scenarios that have fixed 23 pricing, 20 years, a lot of projects ultimately

1 can't get across the finish line. And they 2 have -- they have that revenue stream, but they still can't get their project working. 3 Now, compare that with where we 4 currently are under the status quo in New 5 Hampshire, with default service being the credit 6 7 rate for large customer generators. So, in 2024, Eversource's default 8 service rates were recently updated. We've been 9 10 at a range of 8 to 10 and a half cents per 11 kilowatt hour, and that's not a fixed price. So you have a lower price that floats, 12 and, as we all know, that may not be an assurance 13 14 that that price is going to be available -- that 15 price level is going to be available for the full 16 20 years, that projects are able to lock in, in 17 distributed generation programs in other states. 18 So, given that significant difference, I think there's going to be a lot of economic 19 headwinds to the whole queue coming online in the 20 21 coming years. 22 I don't -- and that's not uncommon. 2.3 Projects can apply to interconnect at any time

1		for our words a love number of these medicates
		for any reason. A large number of those projects
2		don't ultimately get across the finish line and
3		enter service.
4	Q.	Thank you very much. Jessica Chiavara.
5		Mr. Rice, CPCNH has proposed that
6		customer generators receive transmission credit
7		based on the calculation of regional network
8		service or RNS charges.
9		What would be the impact of
10		implementing CPCNH's proposal?
11	A.	(Rice) I'm not going to get into the
12		administrative requirements. I think we've
13		covered that enough so far.
14		But I think it's important to
15		recognize how the Coalition's proposal could also
16		contribute to outcomes that really aren't optimal
17		or efficient. Ultimately, what the Coalition is
18		asking is for a transmission credit to be
19		provided solely based on the output of a
20		generation facility at one hour in one month,
21		each month.
22		That's how RNS charges are calculated.
23		It's an allocation methodology, where all the

wholesale transmission customers in New England are allocated a piece of the -- the cost of operating regional transmission systems based on their coincident peak load.

I think it's important to not misconstrue an allocation methodology as a price signal that's efficiently -- and suggesting what the -- the underlying cost of the transmission system is or the incremental cost of the transmission system is.

We've talked about a circuit saturation on Tuesday and how, when you have a growing number of large resources that are trying to put more power back out to the grid, it more quickly saturates the substation and creates the need for costly upgrades to allow more resources to come online.

We've talked about how kind of the situation that Eversource's operating companies in Massachusetts are dealing with. One of the things that companies -- that a Massachusetts company is increasingly trying to do with distributed generation is it actually provides

them incentives to moderate their output. So instead of configuring your system to put as much power out to the grid at any point in time as you can, which is what the Coalition wants to encourage, we're asking resources to do the opposite.

2.3

We're asking them to moderate their output and spread it out over a longer period of time. Because when you do that, you don't contribute to circuit saturation as much. So we get more benefit out of the investments we're making. We can do more distributed generation with the same investment.

So that's a much more efficient pricing up, and we're concerned that the Coalition's proposal was, really, to do the opposite.

Q. Thank you very much. Jessica Chiavara.

I guess as a point of comparison, can you generally explain how a utility would be compensated for activities, such as, a battery storage pilot or building, owning, and operating a solar project?

1	A.	(Rice) Yeah. A utility would collect a
2		regulated cost of service, typically. You know,
3		if approved by its regulator, it would be able to
4		recover critically incurred operation maintenance
5		expense, depreciation on critically incurred
6		capital investments, plus a reasonable return on
7		that capital that was approved by its regulator.
8	Q.	Jessica Chiavara asking.
9		Mr. Rice, if a utility program or
10		investment resulted in a reduction in the
11		wholesale transmission charges, would the utility
12		retain the value of that reduction?
13	Α.	(Rice) No, it would not.
14	Q.	Thank you. Jessica Chiavara asking.
15		Mr. Rice, who would benefit from that
16		reduction in transmission charges?
17	Α.	(Rice) That benefit would flow to all utility
18		customers who support wholesale transmission
19		comps through their retail transmission rates.
20		That would result in a reduction to retail
21		transmission rates paid by all customers.

Mr. Rice, if the Commission were to

Jessica Chiavara.

22

23

Q.

And -- sorry.

1 approve CPCNH's recommendation for transmission credit and net metered facilities' reduced 2 transmission charges, who would benefit from that 3 reduction? 4 5 (Rice) In that case, the benefit -- that benefit Α. of a reduced wholesale transmission charge would 6 7 be passed on exclusively to the net metered customer instead of all customers. 8 9 Thank you very much. Jessica Chiavara. Q. 10 The next question is for Mr. Davis. 11 Mr. Davis, the Coalition also wants battery 12 storage to be eligible for net metering and is recommending the Commission take action and 13 14 direct the utilities to start developing tariffs allowing such eligibility. 15 16 Can you briefly identify any issues that should be considered prior to such action 17 being taken? 18 19 (Davis) Sorry. Can you repeat the question, Α. 20 please? 21 So the Coalition was recommending earlier Q. Yes. 22 today that battery storage be eligible for net 2.3 metering and was recommending that the Commission

1 take action to direct the utilities to start 2 developing tariffs to allow such eligibility for battery storage being eligible for net metering. 3 Can you briefly identify issues that 4 should be considered prior to such action being 5 taken? 6 7 (Davis) Certainly. I'm sorry, in the context of Α. 8 a tariff, right? As far as, before making -- before making battery Q. 10 storage eligible for net metering credits, 11 what -- what considerations should be taken into 12 account? Well, first, I'll make it clear that, 13 Α. (Davis) 14 you know, Eversource is currently able to pair 15 energy storage with net metering facilities. 16 do support further development of battery storage 17 as a valuable energy-resilient resource, and we're not opposed, in principle, to considering 18 19 making battery storage eligible for net metering credits. 20 21 However, the subject should be 22 properly and thoroughly considered before such an 2.3 expansion of net metering would be adopted.

it certainly wasn't noticed in this docket, has not been properly vetted by the parties, potentially put before the Commission for consideration with [sic] the necessary scrutiny that I believe would need to be required.

Should we -- the parties here, you know, wish to consider expanding net metering to include battery storage, we would support a party filing such a petition and would welcome participation in that proceeding.

I can say that this issue has already played out to varying degrees in neighboring states. It's been demonstrated that this is a matter of some complexity that's definitely worth consideration to see if implementation of such an expansion aligns with state policy and rate design principles, among other considerations before any action is taken.

Q. Thank you, Mr. Davis. Jessica Chiavara.

Mr. Davis, turning a bit to pragmatic considerations. Earlier today, Mr. Below actually, in testimony, Exhibit 13, pages 19 through 22, suggests calculating on an individual

1		customer basis a transmission credit based on
2		what he asserts in testimony are avoided
3		transmission costs.
4		Currently, net metering compensation
5		is calculated using existing rates or a
6		percentage of existing rates, and the combination
7		of those.
8		This would be a newly designed credit
9		rate. Is that an accurate characterization, in
10		your opinion?
11	Α.	(Davis) That's how I see it, yes.
12	Q.	So thank you. Jessica Chiavara.
13		Mr. Davis, if this is a new rate, even
14		though it's a credit rate, would it require a
15		finding by the Commission that it's just and
16		reasonable?
17	А.	(Davis) Yes, it would.
18	Q.	Thank you. Jessica Chiavara.
19		Mr. Davis, Mr. Below suggests, on page
20		30 of Exhibit 13 in his testimony, that the rate
21		could be, quote, adjusted as part of the TCAM
22		filing. Is this an appropriate method of dealing
23		with this?

1	Α.	Oh, no. No. Mr. Below's proposed calculation
2		for a transmission credit rate has different
3		inputs than those that we use for the TCAM.
4		They're, effectively, two entirely different
5		rates that would require different proceedings
6		with independent findings of the Commission that
7		each rate is just and reasonable.

Q. Jessica Chiavara.

Mr. Davis, since Mr. Below is suggesting a rate calculated on an individual customer basis, does that seem like it would be more or less efficient, compared to uniform rates across customer classes, for the Commission to find that the rates are just and reasonable?

- A. (Davis) Well, this is a new idea. I'm not really sure off the top of my head how we would do that.
- Q. Fair enough. Jessica Chiavara.

Mr. Davis, Mr. Below suggested in his testimony that manual -- and I think he reiterated it today -- that manual credit calculations would be relatively simple. Do you agree?

1	Α.	(Davis) Ed Davis.
2		No. I don't operate the billing
3		system, but I do work closely with the billing
4		group. And at a high level, I think this would
5		be onerous, slow, and disruptive to, probably,
6		our billing operations.
7	Q.	Thank you very much. Jessica Chiavara.
8		I'm going to put these next
9		questions focus on the load settlement proposal
10		by the Coalition. First question for Mr. Swift.
11		Mr. Below spoke, and testified in his
12		written testimony, about the utilities changing
13		how they settle wholesale energy levels with ISO
14		New England. A primary justification for this is
15		that it would be more accurate, because it would
16		be assigning customer generator exports to the
17		customer's supplier.
18		Would this, in fact, be a more
19		accurate or fairer method of allocation?
20	Α.	(Swift) It possibly could be in some cases, but
21		only with the implementation of interval meters,
22		which are currently not in place for the vast
23		majority of our customers.

Interval meters also require supporting software systems capable of supporting the technology. So all in all, it's a profound investment.

Without interval meters, Mr. Below's proposed method is simply a costly and complex replacement of the current method of estimation, which has been tested and works. But this method, which has not been testified or even sufficiently detailed to be able to assess it, it would make New Hampshire the odd man out, with a FERC-regulated process and that is uniformly used throughout the region. New Hampshire would be settling loads differently than all of the other states in ISO New England territory.

In addition, this method would also require substantial modifications of what, for all three New Hampshire utilities, are enterprise-wide systems. Without a detailed proposal for how this methodology would be executed, it's hard to say the extent of the effort or cost that this would entail, but I can say that making any modifications to these

1		systems entail a sizable investment and
2		undertaking.
3	Q.	Thank you very much. Jessica Chiavara.
4		Still for Mr. Swift.
5		Mr. Below suggested oh, sorry
6		I'm sorry. I lost my place. Give me just a
7		moment.
8		The question is still for Mr. Swift.
9		If Eversource had interview interval meters
10		today, which you just said would be required for
11		an accurate for this to be done accurately,
12		what would the practical effect be of
13		implementing the Coalition's preferred method of
14		load settlement?
15	Α.	(Swift) In short, it would cost a lot of money
16		and change very little, I believe.
17		At best, this would create a minimal
18		cost shift, where the supplier with the most
19		customer generator exports would see a nominal
20		reduction in load obligation for the amount of
21		exports that exceeds what other suppliers are
22		exporting, but that reduction would have to be
23		paid for by it basically would be offset by

other suppliers picking up a larger load obligation.

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exported generation is calculated and allocated, which is a small portion of what's called the residual remote settlement. The residual is a mechanism that balances the wholesale obligation of all suppliers. The actual system loads is essentially an assortment of miscellaneous calculations, such as, line loss, differences in profile assumptions, as well as export -- excess exported energy from net metered customers.

To continue, the part of residual associated with exported generation from net metered customers is estimated to be a relatively small percent based on -- based on data that I analyzed from 2023 actual settlement data. This means that, even if we were to do what Mr. Below is suggesting, that dumps suppliers' customers' exports from their load obligation, the majority of residual still needs to be allocated. Plus if you deduct exports from one particular supplier, they would -- they would need to be allocated

1 among the rest of the suppliers. This means that 2 the supplier's load will not be reduced by the 3 full export amount. The result of Mr. Below's suggestion 4 is just a minor adjustment to what portion of the 5 residual is allocated to each supplier by using 6 7 the relative difference in customer exports from 8 one supplier to another. 9 Simply put, although this is the 10 preferred method for allocating customer exports 11 load settlement, it's just a cost shift among suppliers, and a relatively minor one at that. 12 It does not justify the cost and resources that 13 14 it would take to disrupt the currently working process that is uniform and formerly used across 15 16 New England. 17 Just to give you an example. I look at solar data, you know, the excess 18 generation from, you know, rooftop solar is on 19 the order of about a half a percent. But to kind 20 21 of give you, kind of like, a dummied-down 22 example, if I just consider the rooftop solar --2.3 just the excess portion, because that's the only

1 part that gets allocated. Suppose we had two 2 suppliers and their load obligation was 100 hours each, so my total load obligation of 200 hours. 3 Now, when I apply the residual 4 adjustment of about a half a percent, that would 5 bring each supplier load down to \$99.50, because 6 7 of the half percent credit net metering. 8 Based on Mr. Below's proposed methodology, if one supplier had a higher --9 10 higher excess generation versus another, for 11 supplier B's excess generation, say to the 12 two-to-one ratio, or the 60/40 ratio, essentially what that would do is take those two suppliers 13 that are -- now have a load obligation of \$99.50. 14 15 The one with more generation would end up with a 16 load obligation of \$99.40, and the second supplier would have to make up the difference, 17 18 and his load obligation would be \$99.60. So it's important to realize two 19 20 things. Number one, there's no net savings. 21 Total load obligation, you know, when you sum 22 them up between the two suppliers, would be the 23 So the benefit/cost ratio of making that same.

type of investment and making that type of change would be zero.

And the second thing is it really -it would be a shift. It would be a shift towards
non-participants, which would -- it would shift
some cost to non-participants, and it would be a
huge and expensive undertaking to make those
modifications.

Q. Thank you very much. Jessica Chiavara.

Still for Mr. Swift.

2.3

Do you know of any alternative means to accomplish the ends of this preferred methodology suggested by the Coalition?

A. (Swift) Well, because -- you know, based on that last example, CPCNH already receives the socialized share of the residual. That's a given. So it would seem logical that if CPCNH wanted to raise additional revenue to increase the compensation to their customers, they could simply do that by adding a small -- and I believe it would be a very small -- charge to their customers to pay for whatever type of increased incentive that they wanted to offer their

customers.

Q. Thank you. Jessica Chiavara.

Turning back to Mr. Rice. CPCNH is saying that their preferred methodology for allocating the wholesale load obligation costs is essential for the Coalition to serve net metered customers. Is this true?

A. (Rice) I don't believe so, at least in the -- or the way Mr. Swift just described, you know, an example of how it could be accomplished, and that's supported by Eversource with 3,000 net metered customers today -- actually, more than 3,000 -- that are served by a competitive supplier. So their competitive supplier is going to figure this out for at least 3,000 customers.

And then, I mean, the other thing is, if the Coalition, you know, concludes that the -- that the process that Mr. Swift described, you know, really is prejudicing their ability to serve a net metered customer, or the margin net metered customer, I mean, they do have the option to register the asset. You know, if the asset was registered, then 100 percent of the output

1	would be settled, and then it would be available
2	to the wholesale supplier.
3	So, yeah, I don't know what kind of
4	the difference is between 100 percent and
5	but well, I'll just leave it at that.
6	There is an option that exists today
7	for 100 percent of the energy value to be
8	retained by wholesale supplier for a net metered
9	use.
10	So, I mean, I recognize there are
11	probably reasons that the Coalition would prefer
12	the changes to be made. I'm you know, we're
13	just not convinced that it rises to the level of
14	necessity that seems to have been represented.
15	MS. CHIAVARA: Thank you very much.
16	Jessica Chiavara. That's all the direct I have
17	of this panel.
18	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. We can
19	move now to cross beginning with CPCNH.
20	MS. MANZELLI: Thank you.
21	REBUTTAL CROSS-EXAMINATION
22	BY MS. MANZELLI:
23	Q. Thank you. This is Amy Manzelli questioning.

1 Let's see, a couple of questions for Mr. Rice.

2 Let me start with reference to Exhibit

3 28, who have -- do you guys have the exhibits up

4 there or --

- 5 A. (Rice) I have some of them.
- Q. Okay. I have one copy. Exhibit 28 is the -- let
  me -- Exhibit 28 is Eversource's response about
  the number of projects in the queue right now and
- 10 A. (Rice) I don't have it in front of me, but I --

then response to a record request.

- I'm familiar with the response. If I need to see
- 12 | it.

9

- 13 Q. Okay. I'm not even asking about the numbers.
- 14 A. (Rice) Okay.
- 15 | O. Amy Manzelli speaking.
- So you made reference to Mr. Below's testimony earlier, and you characterized his testimony as being that he testified that there
- was going to be a large number of large projects
- 20 coming online. But isn't it true that he was
- 21 simply referencing Exhibit 28 to describe the
- 22 projects coming online?
- 23 A. (Rice) The way -- the way I took Mr. Below's

testimony is he pointed out the queue and then said it was large. And I took that as intended to convey a sense of urgency to change the net metering structure before this large wave of projects comes online and participates in the status quo.

And I -- I guess I'm just skeptical of that level of urgency and the likelihood that all of those projects will, indeed, come online before the Commission has an opportunity to consider rate changes in the future.

Again, given that the current compensation rate available to those projects through default service is not fixed and -Mr. Rice, I understand your position, and your skepticism is noted. You explained it before.

Amy Manzelli questioning.

But my question is, you've said that

Mr. Below said that the projects that were coming

on would be large and -- by which I think you

mean, you know, in the 1 to 5 megawatt category.

But he didn't characterize the size of the

projects, right? He characterized the quantity

Ο.

1		of the projects; is that correct?
2	Α.	(Rice) I think he characterized both sizes and
3		the quantity, in terms of what the potential
4		impact could be if those projects were to come
5		online and participate under the current net
6		metering structure.
7	Q.	Amy Manzelli questioning.
8		Can we agree that he characterized the
9		potential of projects coming online with
10		reference to the information contained in Exhibit
11		28?
12	Α.	(Rice) Sure.
13	Q.	And the facts are really that the truth is
14		neither you, nor Mr. Below, nor any of us, can
15		predict the future of how many projects are
16		coming online, what their size is or any of that?
17	Α.	(Rice) I agree. None of us can predict the
18		future.
19		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Mr. Rice, if you
20		could just remember to identify yourself before
21		answering.
22		THE WITNESS: (Rice) Thank you,
23		Chairman.

1		BY MS. MANZELLI:
2	Q.	Amy Manzelli questioning.
3		But we do have some facts that we do
4		know. For example, we have Exhibit 28, which is
5		the actual factual around projects in the
6		Eversource queue at the time that answer was
7		provided, right?
8	Α.	(Rice) The information in the Eversource
9		response is actual.
10	Q.	Yeah. And can you explain to us what happened
11		with the number of DER applications with respect
12		to the Eversource in 2022?
13	Α.	(Rice) Not off the top of my head.
14		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Mr. Rice, please
15		don't forget to identify yourself.
16		WITNESS: (Rice) Thank you.
17		Brian Rice, Eversource Energy.
18		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you.
19		THE WITNESS: (Rice) Not off the top
20		of my head.
21		BY MS. MANZELLI:
22	Q.	Is there anyone on the panel that can answer that
23		question, what happened with the amount of DER

1		applications for Eversource in 2022 or
2		thereabouts?
3		Amy Manzelli questioning.
4	А.	(Davis) Ed Davis. I cannot.
5	Q.	Okay. I think this is for Mr. Rice.
6		Do you have Mr. Woolf's and Mr. Borden's
7		testimony in front of you?
8	Α.	(Rice) I do not.
9	Q.	Are you familiar with Exhibit 4, which is their
10		testimony, Figure 1? We looked at it earlier.
11		It describes the four stages: Stage 1, Stage 2,
12		Stage 3, Stage 4, and when it might be prudent to
13		move away from or move into avoided costs and
14		other types of compensation mechanisms.
15	Α.	(Rice) I don't have it in front of me.
16	Q.	Okay.
17		MS. MANZELLI: Commission, permission
18		to approach the witness to provide a copy?
19		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Please do.
20		MS. MANZELLI: Thank you. That is Amy
21		Manzelli.
22		BY MS. MANZELLI:
23	Q.	So I'll give you a second there just to look at

what (indiscernible) copy of Mr. Woolf's and Mr. Borden's testimony at Exhibit 4, but I would like you to bring your attention to Figure 1 on Bates page 19.

2.3

You testified earlier that there is no -- that there -- about justification for treating all kilowatt hours as having the same value.

Wouldn't you agree that Mr. Woolf's and Mr. Borden's testimony regarding Figure 1 suggests that when the net metering -- that when the distributed energy resources become developed to a certain extent, that maintaining net metering 2.0 status quo no longer becomes just and reasonable?

- A. (Rice) I don't think I can answer that question, because I don't know what you mean by "certain extent." If you could clarify that.
- Q. Well, I believe -- I did just hand you my only copy, but I believe if you look on the third square, which I believe they call Stage 3, It'll say something like: Greater than 10 percent market saturation -- market saturation. So

1 that's how I would define a "certain extent." 2 Α. (Rice) Okay. That's very helpful. Thank you. 3 Q. Yeah. (Rice) So based on that definition of "certain 4 Α. extent, " subject to check -- and I'd be happy to 5 explore this -- Eversource in New Hampshire would 6 7 most certainly be in Stage 2, expanded adoption. 8 Like I said, there are -- Eversource 9 has 500,000 customers. Unless anybody -- I mean, 10 other witnesses can correct me. And subject to 11 check, I'm reasonably confident we don't have 12 50,000-plus customers there. 13 But wouldn't that be a justification from -- away 14 from the status pro -- status quo -- this is Amy 15 Manzelli. I'll start that over. 16 Wouldn't it be, or couldn't it be, a justification for moving away from the status quo 17 that New Hampshire would be approaching or 18 surpassing 10 percent in the future? 19 20 (Rice) Well, at this point, this isn't -- yeah, Α. 21 this isn't my testimony. This is the testimony

of the OCA's witness. It's who ultimately

recommended approval of the settlement.

22

2.3

And, again, it's -- like I said, subject to check, I'm reasonably confident Eversource is in Stage 2. I don't know when we'll approach Stage 3, because as we talked about previously, no one can predict the future.

Q. Uh-huh.

- A. (Rice) So based on that and based on the, you know, assessments supported by the Dunsky analysis and the analysis submitted by Mr. Tom Beach for Clean Energy New Hampshire, I think that I'm going to kind of double-down on the settling parties' recommendation that at this stage, given the -- the evidence in the proceeding, that continuing the status quo under the terms of the settlement is a reasonable course forward.
- Q. And I'm asking these questions because you testified at the beginning of this panel about justification for treating all kilowatt hours as having the same value.

So I'm just trying to get at, couldn't there be some circumstances where there would be justification for not treating all kilowatt hours

1	as having the same value? That's why I was	
2	asking those questions, Mr. Rice, but I'll move	
3	on.	
4	You also testified earlier about the	
5	unintended consequences of differentiation. What	
6	do you mean by that?	
7	Amy Manzelli asking.	
8	A. (Rice) I think I described this scenario with	
9	respect to the proposal for of being the	
10	Coalition	
11	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Mr. Rice, I'm sorry	
12	for interrupting again.	
13	THE WITNESS: (Rice) Thank you.	
14	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Please don't	
15	forget.	
16	THE WITNESS: (Rice) Brian Rice,	
17	Eversource Energy. I do apologize for having	
18	to	
19	MS. MANZELLI: It's really hard.	
20	THE WITNESS: (Rice) Thank you.	
21	Again, I think the most clear example before us	
22	now in this proceeding is the proposal for	
23	transmission crediting.	

1		Again, to we're really concerned
2		with the suggestion that we should be encouraging
3		resources to maximize their output to the grid
4		within a single hour, particularly when you
5		add when you add storage, you're really
6		expanding the capacity of the resource to do
7		that. And I think we explained, because of
8		what's required from the electric power system to
9		accommodate that maximized out output, it
10		doesn't seem to be encouraging efficient use of
11		the electric power system at all.
12		BY MS. MANZELLI:
13	Q.	And what is your evidence of that sole unintended
14		consequence that you just discussed?
15		Amy Manzelli asking.
16	Α.	(Rice) Brian Rice, Eversource Energy.
17		My evidence is what we've discussed in
18		the course of these hearings.
19	Q.	Now, I'm I'm a little bit Amy Manzelli
20		asking.
21		Can you help me understand,
22		admittedly, the I'm going to say everybody in
23		the room, to this docket and these issues, your

testimony about, if I'm understanding it correctly, adding storage encourages maximizing energy production to one hour.

2.3

Can you -- can you elaborate on that a little bit?

- A. (Rice) Yeah. The suggested service -- just pointing out that if an intermittent distributed generation resource, such as solar, was paired with storage, it's possible -- it may even be intended -- that that storage resource could be used to store solar output over multiple hours and then discharge that output in a much shorter period of time, in order to maximize output to the grid in a narrower period of time, to try to maximize the credit that the Coalition wants to be provided.
- Q. And isn't it also possible and -- Amy Manzelli questioning -- and, in fact, preferable that storage would be charged during, you know, something like solar noon on a solar sunny day, and then discharged at, you know, 8:00 p.m. when there might be more need for that energy? Isn't that an alternative scenario?

A. (Rice) That's an alternative scenario. I don't know if it's -- it would necessarily be preferable. I think it's going to vary on certain conditions.

But it's often not the scenario that the Coalition proposed. The Coalition has just proposed to discharge during the one hour of regional system peak and maximize a credit based on RNS charges, and that may or may not be the most beneficial time for a local circuit to -- to have that maximum amount of discharge onto it.

Q. Okay. Amy Manzelli questioning.

2.3

It is, in fact, though, what

Eversource is proposing in its Eversource New

Hampshire Clean Energy Fund, the purpose of which
is to reduce strain on the electric grid during

times of peak electricity demand, the hottest

days of the year, and having participants agree

to allow the program to remotely discharge their

battery during demand response events, correct?

A. (Rice) I'm not -- I don't have the document that you're reading from in front of me. I didn't produce it.

But that's a reasonable description, and then it doesn't say that Eversource is going to dispatch those resources solely to try to coincide with the regional system peak to only reduce RNS charges. So I'm trying to, you know, pick one hour.

And even in the event it did, the benefits associated with reducing transmission charges wouldn't -- as explained previously, wouldn't be retained by Eversource. They would accrue to -- to all customers that pay the cost of regional transmission costs through their retail rates, all New Hampshire customers or Eversource customers.

O. Aim Manzelli questioning.

2.3

But just transitioning to the concept of battery paired with solar, that's got to be aligned with state policy if this is something that Eversource is already doing in New Hampshire, right?

MS. CHIAVARA: I'm sorry. Excuse me. Jessica Chiavara. I don't know the program to which Attorney Manzelli is referring. I think

1 we -- I think she's referring to the -- some 2 program outside of this docket for -- and I'm not -- it doesn't sound familiar to me. 3 4 MS. MANZELLI: If I may respond. The witness has already acknowledged 5 that the -- the description of the program 6 7 sounded accurate. And if we -- if the Commission wishes us to enter this document that I'm holding 9 as an exhibit, we can. This is a document that 10 became available to us and was published, I 11 believe, only yesterday. 12 MS. CHIAVARA: I was just asking that 13 she identify what program she's speaking of, so 14 we can confirm whether or not that is an 15 Eversource program and whether the description 16 is, in fact, accurate. 17 MS. MANZELLI: I'm happy to do that. The top of the document says, Enphase, 18 and then the next description says, Enphase 19 Growth Services Installer Training, Eversource 20 21 New Hampshire Clean Energy Fund. The remainder 22 of the first slide says: Partnering with Enphase 2.3 for customer success in Eversource New Hampshire

1 Territory, and it's dated August 21st, 2024. 2 this is Amy Manzelli speaking. MS. CHIAVARA: So the Eversource Clean 3 Energy Fund was created with shareholder dollars. 4 I believe the Chair is familiar with that. 5 that was funded with shareholder dollars. We are 6 7 not talking about ratepayer money. I think these 8 are wholly un-analogous examples, and I don't see 9 how that is relevant to this inquiry. 10 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Attorney Manzelli, 11 I think it's 20 -- is it 23-004? 12 MS. MANZELLI: Correct. 13 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Yeah. So that was 14 a -- that was a separate funding element, so that 15 may not be relevant here. 16 MS. MANZELLI: Well -- excuse me, Commissioner. 17 18 The issue here is that the purpose of adding these batteries is to reduce strain on the 19 electric grid, and I'm reading from the document 20 21 here, quote: Reduce strain on the electric grid 22 during times of peak electricity demand, which 2.3 is -- end of quote.

Which is one of the benefits that the 1 2 Coalition is pointing out, and to our understanding, one of the benefits that either 3 the joint utilities or Eversource -- they can 4 certainly clarify -- is either denying at large 5 or is denying as being beneficial enough to 6 7 justify the Coalition's recommendations. I believe the issue 8 MS. CHIAVARA: here is how to set compensation levels for net 9 10 metering credit and the CEF battery storage 11 We're not -- nobody said -- I don't program. 12 think is disputing the benefit of batteries 13 dispatching energy to the grid. But we are not 14 talking about setting compensation levels with 15 the Clean Energy Fund. I think that's what we're 16 talking about in this docket. 17 MS. MANZELLI: One last point, Commissioner, is that either the joint utilities 18 or Eversource is also questioning whether pairing 19 storage -- storage with distributed energy 20 21 resources is aligned with state policy, which, 22 again, this program demonstrates that it is, in 23 Eversource's perspective.

1	MS. CHIAVARA: Again, I think we're
2	missing the the nexus of the reason for the
3	battery storage deployment in the Clean Energy
4	Funding and what's being discussed here, which is
5	setting compensation levels and setting credit
6	levels and the basis and the soundness for
7	setting those compensation levels, versus the
8	Clean Energy Fund, which is simply trying to
9	reduce load on the system.
10	MR. TAYLOR: And, sorry, I just
11	also sorry. Pat Taylor.
12	I also just want to I want to take
13	issue with some of the statements that Attorney
14	Manzelli said, characterizing, you know, the
15	responses of Mr. Rice on behalf of all utilities
16	as somehow being inconsistent with state policy.
17	I think that there's a pretty long
18	record, over multiple dockets, where utilities
19	have have worked to advance state policies.
20	Nothing that Mr. Rice said as
21	Attorney Chiavara argued, no one suggests that
22	there's that the utilities oppose the idea
23	that battery storage, stored at one time,

1	discharged at another time for the benefit of the
2	system, is not what we're talking about here.
3	That's not what Mr. Rice said.
4	And so I think I just don't want to
5	let those statements go unchallenged, because
6	that's not what the witness said.
7	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Attorney Manzelli,
8	let's let's figure out how to move forward
9	here.
10	What what's your line of
11	questioning? What are you trying to show? And
12	maybe we can figure out how to move forward here.
13	MS. MANZELLI: I think I have gotten
14	in the testimony that I need on this issue, and I
15	can move onto my next question.
16	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you.
17	MS. MANZELLI: Thank you.
18	BY MS. MANZELLI:
19	Q. All right. I think this is for Mr. Swift
20	regarding load settlement. You had testified
21	about interval meters. So my understanding is,
22	aren't projects over 1 megawatt going to have
23	interval meters anyway?

1	Α.	(Swift) Generally speaking, that's my belief,
2		yes.
3	Q.	Thank you. I apologize for not saying that that
4		was Amy Manzelli asking the last question.
5	Α.	(Swift) And I apologize for that.
6	Q.	All right. Mutual apologies accepted by Amy
7		Manzelli. Next question by Amy Manzelli. I
8		think, again, this is for Mr. Swift.
9		You emphasized the residual, and I did
10		want to get your right phrase, but it was
11		something like it was a hodgepodge of formulas.
12		Now, is the residual published and
13		available to customer generators?
14	Α.	(Swift) I believe we do have that on our
15		website, but it's certainly something that we can
16		make readily available, and we do make readily
17		available to suppliers on request.
18	Q.	And Amy Manzelli questioning.
19		Are you using the term "suppliers" as
20		distinct from "customer generators" on purpose or
21		not?
22		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Mr. Swift, don't
23		forget to identify yourself. Thank you.

1	Α.	(Swift) Joe Swift responding.
2		I'm using the term "suppliers" to
3		represent energy suppliers, not not
4		generators.
5	Q.	Okay. Thank you. Amy Manzelli here.
6		And, again, with regard to your
7		testimony on load settlement, I'm not going to
8		have captured your exact testimony correctly, but
9		generally, we talked about the Coalition's
10		position representing a huge shift. Again, I'm
11		not getting it exactly correct here, but
12		generally, you said that it would add more cost
13		to the non-net-metered customers, and you made a
14		couple more opinions.
15		What evidence do you have to support
16		your opinions on the Coalition's position on load
17		settlement?
18	Α.	(Swift) Joe Swift responding.
19		In a nutshell, load settlement is a
20		zero-sum game. So if you reduce one supplier's
21		load obligation, somebody has to pick up the
22		difference.
23	Q.	Thank you. Amy Manzelli questioning.

1		Let me rephrase my question.
2		Aside from your testimony here today,
3		what evidence do you have to support your
4		opinions?
5	Α.	(Swift) Joe Swift responding.
6		I guess the answer is I'm familiar
7		with the intricacies of how load is settled.
8		Currently, the residual is allocated to the
9		supplier based on a shared profile load.
10		What's being proposed is a little bit
11		of a different has a little bit of a different
12		twist. Part of the residual associated with
13		excess generation would be broken out of the rest
14		of the residual, and that would be allocated to
15		suppliers based on their share of excess
16		generation.
17		That's my understanding of, you know,
18		the conversations we've had over the course of
19		the last year in technical sessions and so on.
20	Q.	Thank you. Just a moment, please. Okay.
21		Question for Mr. Rice.
22		You testified about some of the
23		programs and systems in Massachusetts. Does

	Massachusetts have an incentive set up to
	yeah.
	Okay. Thank you. Forgive me. Amy
	Manzelli questioning.
	So in Massachusetts, is there anything
	there to incentivize spreading out the production
	over the course of the day? How is that
	accomplished? You testified about some of that
	during your testimony earlier.
Α.	(Rice) So the question is, yes, there are
	incentives that that that encourage generators
	to spread their output out.
Q.	And if you could Amy Manzelli questioning.
	Can you just briefly highlight, what
	are those incentives?
Α.	(Rice) So right now, I talked a little bit about
	the changes to interconnection cost allocation in
	Massachusetts. One of the features of that is
	that generators are assessed interconnection
	costs based on the maximum amount they propose to
	export to the grid.
	So if a generator takes the
	opportunity to manage and moderate its output to
	Q.

1		the grid, its cost responsibility for
2		interconnection could be lower, and that's a
3		beneficial incentive, because if more generators
4		do that, then it creates it basically allows
5		for more total generation in terms of and
6		total output over time, to be hosted by the same
7		level of system upgrade.
8	Q.	Thank you. Amy Manzelli questioning.
9		And, generally speaking, how does a
10		generator manage or moderate output? For anyone
11		on the panel.
12	А.	(Rice) But on the technology? I think the
13		the fine example that we talked about is
14		utilizing energy storage, pairing that with a
15		limited resource, and using it to moderate and
16		flatten the combined output of both of them.
17		Again, over many hours, so as to minimize output
18		to the grid during any one single hour.
19		MS. MANZELLI: All right. My thanks
20		to the panel. Amy Manzelli speaking. Thank you.
21		Oh, I'm sorry. I did skip over
22		something. Let me just get back to that real
23		quick.

1		BY MS. MANZELLI:
2	Q.	I do have a couple of questions for Mr. Pentz,
3		so let me get my notes here.
4		Mr. Pentz, you're familiar with the
5		Unitil Kingston solar project, Docket 22-073.
6	A.	(Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering. Yes.
7	Q.	Okay. I have a couple of questions for you, just
8		to go over some the attributes from that project.
9		I do have excerpts from your
10		testimony if you need to be refreshed on that. I
11		understand it was a little bit ago.
12		Just big picture, it is your
13		understanding that this project may be the
14		largest, if not the only one of its type in New
15		England?
16	Α.	(Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering.
17		Yes, that is my understanding.
18	Q.	Okay. And that being that it's a single-access
19		project?
20	Α.	(Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering. Yes.
21	Q.	Yeah, okay. And I'm looking at your testimony,
	1	

It was

which is dated -- it is not dated.

Exhibit FDGP-1, page 17.

22

23

1		Did you testify in that document that
2		in year one, the company estimates customers will
3		realize direct benefits of approximately 1.5
4		million?
5	Α.	(Pentz) The Jeff Pentz answering.
6		The the financial analysis model of
7		that project was primarily spearheaded by another
8		person at Unitil. But, yes, I would generally
9		agree with that. It's in the document.
10	Q.	I believe that
11		MR. TAYLOR: I would ask that
12		Mr. Pentz be asked to if his recollection is
13		to be refreshed, and particularly if he's going
14		to be directed to a number or something like
15		that, that the document be brought up.
16		MS. MANZELLI: Yeah, we can Amy
17		Manzelli speaking.
18		We can definitely do that. Just a
19		moment, please.
20		Attorney Taylor, is it your preference
21		that everybody get a copy?
22		MR. TAYLOR: I think as long as
23		Mr. Pentz can understand what you're looking at.

1		MS. MANZELLI: Okay. Perfect.
2		It is available, of course, in the
3		virtual file room.
4		And permission to approach the
5		witness? Thank you.
6		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Please do.
7		BY MS. MANZELLI:
8	Q.	All right. So I was just going to Amy
9		Manzelli speaking I was just going to comment,
10		Mr. Pentz, that question that sometimes lawyers
11		ask at the beginning, you know, was this
12		testimony prepared by you or at your direction?
13		And so I think your answer related to this was
14		prepared at your direction. You might have had
15		someone helping you with the financial
16		calculations?
17		MR. TAYLOR: That is I object.
18		That is most certainly not what Mr. Pentz said.
19		Perhaps Amy Attorney Manzelli wants to reframe
20		the question.
21		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Can you can you
22		either rephrase or ask the question in a more
23		general way?

1		MS. MANZELLI: Sure.
2		BY MS. MANZELLI:
3	Q.	Was this testimony prepared by you or at your
4		direction?
5	Α.	(Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering.
6		As part of a group with three other
7		individuals who contributed a significant amount
8		of material to the financial analysis, yes.
9	Q.	Amy Manzelli speaking. Thank you. All right.
10		And, Mr. Pentz, I'm continuing on at
11		Bates stamp page 19, when you testified that some
12		of the benefits of the single-access
13		single-access tracker project were avoided
14		capacity costs, local transmission benefits, and
15		regional transmission benefits, among some
16		others.
17	Α.	(Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering. Yes, that is
18		correct.
19	Q.	And turning to page 191, and you'll figure when
20		you flip the page here, what I have passed to you
21		is excerpts from your testimony there, so it does
22		go from page 19 to page 191.
23		You also testified or this

- testimony includes that the Kingston solar

  project will operate as a load reducer, right?

  A. (Pentz) Yes, that is correct.

  Thank you. This explained otherwise -- that t
  - Q. Thank you. This explained otherwise -- that the electricity output will offset energy that otherwise would be received by utility on the transmission system.
- 8 A. (Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering. Yes, that is correct.
- 10 Q. Couple more. Amy Manzelli asking.

5

6

7

14

15

- Also, as a load reducer, the Kingston
  solar project will reduce capacity from the
  perspective of the ISO New England market, right?
  - A. (Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering. Yes, that is correct.
- Q. And on page 193: The company estimated that the

  Kingston solar project's generation output during

  the monthly peak hour to be approximately 600

  kilowatts.
- Do you see that there?
- 21 A. (Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering.
- Yes, I see that. That's correct.
- 23 Q. Amy Manzelli asking. And that was approximately

1		12 percent of the nameplate nameplate
2		capacity?
3	Α.	(Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering. Yes, that's
4		correct.
5	Q.	And I'm not going to get Amy Manzelli asking.
6		I'm not going to get into the full
7		detail here, because we can brief it. But the
8		testimony includes a sentence explaining the
9		calculation of the Year 1 local transmission
10		benefits, correct?
11	Α.	(Pentz) Yes. The exhibits do have a financial
12		model that indicate what the Year 1 savings would
13		be. Cost avoidance, I'm sorry.
14	Q.	And on page 124, they also talk the testimony
15		also talks about the Year 1 regional
16		transmission benefit and describes that as a
17		formula with words, a narrative description of
18		the formula, correct?
19	Α.	(Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering.
20		Yes, that is my recollection.
21		MS. MANZELLI: Okay. Thank you. I
22		apologize for Amy Manzelli speaking.
23		I apologize for almost forgetting a
	1	

- 1 line of questioning. With that, thank you again 2 to the panel. We have no further questions on 3 this. 4 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. We'll just do a quick check-in before we take the shortest 5 6 of breaks. 7 First checking with the Department to 8 see if there's any cross for the witnesses. 9 MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig. Just 10 two questions. 11 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. And then --12 perhaps it's premature, but I'm going to try 13 nevertheless. Does either the DOE or CPCNH plan 14 to present a surrebuttal panel? 15 MS. CHIAVARA: Yes, but I do believe 16 that we can do it in five minutes or so. 17 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: All right. hold you to that. Department? 18 MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig. 19 20 the Department doesn't plan to.
- CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. All right.

  We have enough information to take a break.

  Let's return at twenty of. Off the record.

1		(Recess taken.)
2		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Go back on the
3		record and pick up with cross from the Department
4		of Energy.
5		REBUTTAL CROSS-EXAMINATION
6		BY MS. LADWIG:
7	Q.	Thank you. Alexandra Ladwig.
8		Mr. Rice, you testified I believe
9		you said there were 3,000 Eversource customers on
10		competitive supply, and I couldn't tell if you
11		said customers in general or net metering
12		customers.
13	Α.	(Rice) Brian Rice, Eversource Energy.
14		Yeah, it was 3,000 net metering
15		customers that actually provide (indiscernible).
16	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning.
17		And is that customers in New Hampshire
18		or across multiple states?
19	Α.	(Rice) Customers in New Hampshire.
20	Q.	Alexandra Ladwig questioning. Thank you.
21		And then one more question for the
22		utilities generally about storage.
23		Are the utilities currently able to

1		confirm or monitor monitor that batteries are
2		charged only from fuel sources eligible for net
3		metering?
4	Α.	(Davis) I cannot confirm directly today. I'll
5		be glad to follow up and just give you a general
6		idea of what types of configurations we have.
7		But for net metering, they're not
8		we're not pairing batteries with net metering
9		facilities for net metering purposes.
10		However, there might be batteries
11		charging from the grid. I don't think there are
12		any that are participating in net metering.
13		MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig
14		questioning. Thank you. That's all I had.
15		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. We'll
16		move now to Commissioner questions, beginning
17		with Commissioner Chattopadhyay.
18		CMSR: CHATTOPADHYAY: Luckily, I don't
19		have any questions.
20		BY CHAIRMAN GOLDNER:
21	Q.	Thank you. Just one today.
22		I want to access Mr. Rice's mind on
23		Massachusetts and in Massachusetts, is there

1 any kind of fixed fee, monthly fixed fee, if a 2 customer is solar -- there's a solar or any other kind of distributed energy resource, is there any 3 kind of a monthly fee that -- that -- that's 4 charged in Mass.? 5 6 Brian Rice speaking. Α. (Rice) I'll answer. Actually, Mr. Davis is 7 8 probably the best one to ask on this. 9 But to my knowledge, no, we don't have 10 a fixed monthly fee that is specific to a -- a 11 net metered customer in Massachusetts. 12 Α. (Davis) Ed Davis. 13 Aside from any up-front costs, which I 14 assume are not part of the question, any fixed 15 monthly fees are typically whatever the 16 appropriate rate schedule is. Typically, like, the customer incurs that fee. 17 So it wouldn't be any different for a 18 Q. 19 solar customer or a regular customer if two neighbors -- if there's a guy with no solar on 20 21 his house and the neighbor has solar on his 22 house, their monthly fixed fee would be the same, 2.3 only their volume -- their monthly fixed fees

1		would be the same?
2	Α.	(Davis) Generally, yes. The reason I say
3		"generally" is we have different metering and
4		billing systems, and we have actually physical
5		net meters in eastern Mass. and separately
6		channeled as in PSNH, separate meter channels
7		and the netting processes are a little different.
8		But, effectively, the answer is yes.
9	Q.	Thank you.
10		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. That's all I
11		had.
12		We can move to a redirect with the
13		panel.
14		MS. CHIAVARA: Thank you. Jessica
15		Chiavara. I have two very brief questions.
16		REBUTTAL REDIRECT EXAMINATION
17		BY MS. CHIAVARA:
18	Q.	These are for Mr. Swift, and perhaps Mr. Pentz as
19		well.
20		Attorney Manzelli had asked for your
21		evidence supporting, I believe, your estimates
22		or or analysis of both the costs of the
23		preferred methodology of the load settlement that

1		CPCNH has suggested in testimony, or also the
2		the results or the implications of doing that
3		alternative methodology.
4		I want to first ask, have you seen a
5		detailed proposal from the Coalition yet?
6	А.	(Swift) Joe Swift responding. No, I have not.
7	А.	(Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering for Unitil.
8		No, I have not.
9	Q.	Thank you. Jessica Chiavara asking.
10		Mr. Swift and, actually, Mr. Pentz
11		can answer this, too. But first starting with
12		Mr. Swift.
13		Would it be accurate to say that
14		your any analysis and estimates that you've
15		conducted and put together so far, based on
16		about the impacts or the costs of the CPCNH
17		preferred methodology for load settlement is
18		based on your firsthand knowledge and experience
19		with the current systems and processes involved
20		with load settlement in your current role as
21		Supervisor of Load Settlement?
22	A.	(Swift) Joe Swift responding. Yes, it is.
23	Q.	Thank you.
	1	

1 Mr. Pentz, I have a similar question, 2 I quess.

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A. (Pentz) Yes. Yes. And I would just kind of -sorry, Jeff Pentz answering for Unitil.

Just a general observation, when it comes to, you know, the discussion about offsetting load obligation with exports, the load settlement is -- is a zero-sum game. If you shift a supplier load asset based on exports, you have to allocate it to other load assets on the system. That's just how it works. Otherwise, you end up what's called -- you end up with un-metered load, which is assigned to the utility that's -- that generally never happens. It's not a good practice to do that.

The question really that, you know, I have trouble wrapping my head around is -- you know, if you're reducing -- you know, let's just say for example, a load asset that has net metered customers. You have to allocate that over which suppliers, you know -- if you allocate that to the residual and if the residual needs to be allocated over all suppliers, what's -- you

1 know, how do you fairly allocate that residual 2 load over all the suppliers? I mean, inevitably, there will be 3 suppliers that would have a negative impact, 4 meaning that you would subtract load from the 5 load asset containing net metered customers, 6 7 perhaps the Coalition's, and then you would end up having to add the load to other load assets on 8 9 the system that may not have as many net metered 10 customers. 11 I have trouble wrapping my head around 12 how that would work, from a mechanic -- from a 13 load settlement mechanics perspective. 14 Fair enough. Jessica Chiavara asking. Ο. 15 So just to circle back to my question 16 about Attorney Manzelli's previous question about the evidence. 17 So the evidence that you two are 18 relying upon is your firsthand knowledge and 19 20 experience at -- being the fact that you do this 21 for a living, correct? 22 (Pentz) Yes, that's correct. I have been doing Α. 2.3 this for almost nine years.

1	Q.	Thank you.
2		MR. TAYLOR: Thank you. Patrick
3		Taylor. I have just a very brief question for
4		Mr. Pentz.
5		REBUTTAL REDIRECT EXAMINATION
6		BY MR. TAYLOR:
7	Q.	Mr. Pentz, earlier you were provided with
8		excerpts of testimony from 22-073.
9		Do you still have that with you?
10	А.	Jeff Pentz answering. Yes, I do.
11	Q.	Could you please go to Bates page 190. And if
12		you'd go down to lines 12 through 14.
13		So earlier, Attorney Manzelli asked
14		you some questions about direct benefits
15		described in this testimony, correct?
16	Α.	(Pentz) That's correct. Jeff Pentz answering.
17	Q.	Patrick Taylor.
18		And among those were included avoided
19		capacity costs, local transmission benefits, and
20		regional transmission benefits, correct?
21	Α.	(Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering. Yes, that's
22		correct.
23	Q.	Patrick Taylor.

1		Those direct benefits will accrue to
2		customers, correct?
3	Α.	(Pentz) Jeff Pentz answering. Yes, that is
4		correct.
5		MR. TAYLOR: I have no other
6		questions.
7		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. Okay.
8		So thank you to the witnesses. The
9		witnesses are now excused and can return to their
10		seats.
11		We'll move to CPCNH's short
12		surrebuttal, and invite Mr. Below back to the
13		stand.
14		Okay. Thank you. Just for the
15		record, Mr. Below has already been sworn in as a
16		witness, so the witness is ready for direct.
17		(Whereupon, Clifton Below continued
18		testifying as follows.)
19		SURREBUTTAL DIRECT EXAMINATION
20		BY MS. MANZELLI:
21	Q.	Thank you. Amy Manzelli questioning.
22		Good afternoon, Mr. Below. You heard
23		Mr. Rice testify earlier, generally speaking,

that the Coalition's proposal was something
like -- and again, I didn't get it down
verbatim -- but it was something like that the
transmission credit would be just for one hour
per month.

Is that what the Coalition is proposing?

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A. (Below) Transmission costs are charged as a rate based on share of monthly coincident peak demand.

So, yes, the benefit, as is described in the Unitil single-access tracker project, as well as Liberty's battery project, as well as what was described in Eversource's Westmoreland battery proposal. In all those cases, the -- the benefit -- as well as the VDER study. benefit that derives from avoiding transmission costs occurs based on a single hour of coincident It's like a demand charge, and it's peak demand. a good rate design as a demand charge, because the entire system -- and this is about transmission, but the whole system has to be built as a capacity -- with enough capacity, meaning coincident peak demand, on each section

of the system, plus the safety margin.

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- Q. Thank you, Mr. Below. Is it a good price signal, and are there jurisdictions that recognize it as a price signal?
  - (Below) Yes. The Massachusetts DPU -- and I Α. would reference -- and the Commission may want to take administrative notice of this. In the Coalition's initial brief on jurisdiction in DE 23-026, at page 21, we quoted from the Massachusetts DPU when they were looking at expansion of coincident peak transmission This allocation billing, and they said, quote: method sends a more accurate price signal to customers regarding the true cost of transmission service, and is consistent with how FERC designs transmission rates on which NSTAR Electric receives transmission service.
  - Q. And, Mr. Below, I promised a five-minute surrebuttal panel, and we'll sort of move right along, and we can brief that more in our brief.

    We'll change topics here on you. So,

22 Mr. Rice also testified about who gets the
23 benefit of a project, and there was just some

questioning that touched on that issue, too.

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So I believe -- again, not transcribing anything verbatim, but I think the testimony was to the two of them -- this is Amy Manzelli speaking, sorry -- if the utility does the distributed energy resource project, the full value of that project, the benefit of that project goes to the ratepayers, to the customers.

What is your reaction to that?

A. (Below) I think it's extremely misleading.

Think the Unitil single-access tracker project, they're saying the whole benefit goes to ratepayers, as if the ratepayers experience all of the reduction in transmission costs or capacity costs.

In reality, what they're saying is, allow us -- and this is the thing in Liberty's battery project, as it was in Eversource's Westmoreland battery proposal that never went forward. But what they're saying is, in those cases, allow us to raise our distribution rate by investing capital in distributed generation or distributed storage.

1	And we believe, based on our forecast,
2	that this increase in our distribution rate will
3	be offset by a reduction in these other costs,
4	and there will be some margin there that creates
5	net benefit, but it's not the whole value,
6	because most of the value stack of the avoided
7	transmission, the avoided capacity, the REC
8	production, et cetera, is actually being
9	transferred to the utility as compensation for
10	their investment in making that happen.
11	It's sort of cost causation/cost
12	benefit. You know, you're creating a benefit;
13	you get credit for that benefit. And,
14	ultimately, there's a portion of this benefit
15	that flows more broadly.
16	And the point is, if you go to a
17	competitive market structure, which is the policy
18	in New Hampshire, including with regard to
19	distributed generation net metering, then you've
20	got lots of parties responding to price signals
21	which mirror some of the same price signals that
22	you see in the competitive generation in the
23	bulk wholesale market that's under FERC

1 jurisdiction. 2 It's just uniquely true that, under the FERC tariffs, if you're under 5 megawatts, 3 4 you don't have to participate in those markets, and you can function as a load reducer. And it's 5 logical because, if you're supplying the power 6 7 locally, you're not using the transmission, 8 particularly if you're reducing the load at coincident peak. 9 And the effect of all that is, the 10 11 more entities that are helping shave and clip 12 that peak demand, it's often meaning they're 13 shifting power to other powers, and the effect of 14 that is we're spreading the fixed cost of all 15 that capacity over more kilowatt hours instead of 16 less kilowatt hours. 17 Q. Thank you, Mr. Below. Is there anything else that you wish to testify on in surrebuttal in 18 19 response to the rebuttal panel? 20 Amy Manzelli questioning. 21 Clifton responding. Α. (Below)

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And just kind of the point of justice

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and fairness.

1		The other thing the Mass. DPU said
2		and it's just part of a sentence. They said:
3		Pricing transmission service based on a
4		customer's consumption at the time of system
5		peak, rather than their own peak, which may not
6		coincide with the system peak, provides a more
7		equitable assignment of cost responsibility.
8		Which is, I think, why they said it's
9		a more accurate price signal.
10	Q.	Thank you, Mr. Below. Amy Manzelli speaking.
11		Thank you, Mr. Below. I appreciate that.
12		MS. MANZELLI: With that, I have no
13		further questions, and the witness is available
14		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. Going to
15		cross-examination, beginning with a joint party.
16		SURREBUTTAL CROSS-EXAMINATION
17		BY MR. TAYLOR:
18	Q.	Mr. Below, you just quoted from well, can you
19		actually can you please tell me what you just
20		quoted from?
21	Α.	(Below) Yes. It's it's New Hampshire PUC
22		Docket DE 23-026, CPCNH initial brief on
23		jurisdiction, and it's on page 21, Bates page 21.

1 Q. Oh, I see. So you were quoting from your own 2 brief? 3 Α. (Below) Yes --4 So you were not --Q. Well, no, I'm quoting from the -- it's 5 Α. 6 footnoted Massachusetts Department of Public 7 Utilities, the docket, the date, and a link directly to the order is provided. 8 I was quoting 9 from the Mass. DPU. 10 Can you please provide what -- the site? O. 11 It's Massachusetts Department of (Below) Yes. Α. 12 Public Utilities, Docket No. 72-05, Order No. DPU 17-05-B, January 5, 2018, at page 211. 13 14 Thanks. Ο. 15 SURREBUTTAL CROSS-EXAMINATION 16 BY MS. CHIAVARA: 17 0. Jessica Chiavara asking. 18 Mr. Below, has the Mass. state DPU 19 directed that net metering customers receive the transmission credit that CPCNH raised in its 20 21 testimony? 22 Not that I know of. Α. (Below)

Thank you.

That's all

MS. CHIAVARA:

23

1		I have.
2		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you. We'll
3		now move to DOE cross.
4		MS. LADWIG: Alexandra Ladwig. No
5		cross from the Department.
6		CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. We'll move
7		to the Commissioner questions. And Commissioner
8		Chattopadhyay.
9		BY CMSR: CHATTOPADHYAY:
10	Q.	It's late in the day. Let me try and figure out
11		what I can ask you.
12		I recall when you were discussing the
13		fact that, when you look at a customer, what size
14		it is what I understood was it's based on what
15		they take from the utility; is that correct?
16	A.	(Below) That is my understanding, and I have
17		looked at the tariffs, and that appears to be
18		what they say.
19	Q.	So, again, trying to understand this. If you go
20		to Exhibit 28.
21	A.	(Below) Okay. I don't have that with me. It's
22		in the notebook, the blue notebook there.
23		MS. MANZELLI: Permission to approach?

1 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Please do. 2 THE WITNESS: (Below) Okay. 3 BY CMSR: CHATTOPADHYAY: 4 Q. You -- for example, it says 0200 kilowatt, one of these -- 24 -- 2407. But that is a category 5 that's all based on what those customers get from 6 7 the utility. 8 Α. No, I think there's a little confusion 9 There's two different small customer here. 10 groups that we're referring to here. 11 small customer generators, which are less than or 12 equal to 100 KW. 13 And then, in default service rates, 14 they're just a small customer group, which, a 15 small generator could be in either the small or 16 large customer group. It -- it only has to do with the point of interconnection, what their 17 load is, consumption load is, and which rate 18 19 class they fit into. Because it -- it doesn't 20 really pertain to the size of their generation. 21 This is about size of the generator? Q.

Okay. As you can tell, my meter is running back,

This Exhibit 28, right.

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Α.

Ο.

(Below)

Right.

1		right?
2		CMSR: CHATTOPADHYAY: Thank you.
3		That's all.
4		BY CHAIRMAN GOLDNER:
5	Q.	So I just have one question, Mr. Below. I'm just
6		trying to understand your argument as it relates
7		to the utilities' argument relative to
8		transmission.
9		I think what you're saying is that
10		New Hampshire ratepayer costs can be reduced by
11		making adjustments to the monthly peak, and I
12		think what the utilities are saying is that, that
13		may or may not actually help out their circuit at
14		the circuit level.
15		Is that am I grasping the
16		difference in your arguments?
17	Α.	(Below) Somewhat, yes. I would further say,
18		though it is true that a particular reduction
19		in a particular month may not result in a
20		particular avoided transmission investment, but
21		as a general dynamic, there's only so much
22		capacity to transmit power at the coincident
23		peak, and a lot of investments are driven by the

need to increase that capacity. And sometimes they're characterized as reliability investments.

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Often, they're called "reliability" because the system is under stress at periods of high demand. So you want to relieve that stress so you have plenty of safety margin for unusual events.

And -- and it just goes to the point that the whole system has to be sized to meet coincident peak demand. And so FERC figured out that that's a very appropriate price signal, for people to either contribute based on their cost, causing their coincident demand to share the total capacity of the system. And if you can help avoid it, then that's a cost that you could avoid, if you're helping reduce that peak.

Q. So you're -- I'm going to see if I can repeat back. I'm not sure I can.

You're suggesting a path forward on reducing the allocation, and I think we just got the filing from Eversource that has something like a 25 percent transmission increase relative to last year, and I think that's a 20-something

1 increase from the year before. So transmission 2 costs are going through the roof. And you're suggesting this would be a 3 methodology to reduce that allocation and, thus, 4 save New Hampshire ratepayers money? 5 (Below) Yes. And I believe other states are 6 Α. trying to -- in various ways to incentivize a 7 similar result. 8 9 Q. Yeah. 10 And some of it is by incentivizing Α. (Below) 11 addition of storage, so that systems can shift, 12 and utility-run programs, like Liberty's battery 13 pilot or Eversource's connected solutions, that dispatches at numerous times to try to get that 14 15 peak. 16 But the notion that -- in order to --17 in order to actually reduce on that peak, or avoid that peak if you're consuming, the more 18 19 people are trying to respond to that price 20 signal, the more that peak's gonna flatten out, 21 and the more hours you're going to need to 22 respond to, to catch it.

So you're incentivizing, in general, a

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whole lot of peak clipping, which in turn, creates capacity, without having to build new capacity, which is always more expensive than existing capacity. You -- you create capacity without having to invest more for beneficial electrification.

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Some of which is well underway.

There's a steady increase of electric vehicles,
and if we don't figure out a structure that says
it's -- it's -- it recognizes the time value of
kilowatt hours, we could have a situation, in a
matter of a few years, with more EVs, with more
electric heat pumps, that were driving demand up,
and we'll see even greater increases in
transmission costs, because we'd risk having to
pay for more capacity with fewer kilowatt hours,
unless we start to improve our asset utilization
rate by shifting load for peak periods to periods
when there's plenty of capacity.

Q. Thank you. That makes sense.

CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Let's see here. Do we have anything else? And then we can go to redirect, if any.

1	MS. MANZELLI: Amy Manzelli speaking.
2	No redirect.
3	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. The witness
4	is excused.
5	THE WITNESS: (Below) Thank you.
6	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Thank you,
7	Mr. Below.
8	Okay. Before moving on to anything
9	else, is everyone okay with moving Exhibits 1
10	through 32 onto the record?
11	MS. CHIAVARA: Jessica Chiavara.
12	Going back to the I think it was cross-exam of
13	Mr. Below, when I was going to ask to remove
14	certain exhibits and move and give the parties
15	an opportunity to brief them instead. I closed
16	out of that document, so bear with me for just a
17	moment, I'm sorry.
18	So that would be Exhibits 20, 22, 23
19	and 24, and then certain passages in rebuttal
20	testimony, and I don't know that they need to be
21	removed from testimony, but if the Commission
22	would just note that those are legal arguments
23	and more appropriate for legal briefs.

1	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Would you be
2	okay moving all 1-32 onto the record with that
3	note or
4	MS. CHIAVARA: Yes, that's good.
5	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Okay. Any
6	objections to that approach?
7	MS. MANZELLI: Amy Manzelli speaking.
8	I just want to clarify. Was it 20, 21, 22
9	perhaps Attorney Chiavara could just repeat the
10	list one more time, and then I do have a comment.
11	MS. CHIAVARA: 20, 22, 23, and 24.
12	And the passages of rebuttal as well, sorry. And
13	in the rebuttal testimony, page 6, line 16
14	through 20; page 10, line 16 through 20; and the
15	entirety of pages 11 through 14.
16	MS. MANZELLI: Thank you for repeating
17	the list of the exhibit numbers and elaborating
18	on the testimony and pages in the rebuttal.
19	With respect to Exhibits 20, 21, 23
20	and 24, I just want to note on the record, it's a
21	little awkward, because these were record
22	requests from Eversource itself. So it called
23	for the testimony, that was then provided. So

it's -- it's awkward. 1 2 Also, the parties, you know, the law -- the applicable law allows parties to 3 4 represent themselves pro se in this docket, which the Coalition did until the end of last week. 5 Obviously, this is a legal proceeding. So when a 6 7 party is representing itself pro se, they are necessarily going to address legal issues. 8 So 9 there's no alternative but for to do that. Having said that, I -- I just wanted 10 11 to put those concerns on the record. I think 12 it's a moot issue. Coalition is now represented 13 by counsel, and we absolutely will incorporate 14 these issues into our post-hearing brief, provided that, as alluded to earlier today, the 15 16 post-hearing brief is going to be on all issues noticed in this docket. 17 Thank you. 18 MS. CHIAVARA: Jessica Chiavara. 19 aware that Eversource issued those questions. 20 My issue is that fact -- fact 21 witnesses are -- it's not appropriate for fact 22 witnesses to engage in legal argument. Attorneys 23 don't file testimony, and so there's no way to

1	respond to a fact witness, because they could
2	object to a question because we'd be asking for
3	legal analysis, which shouldn't be provided in
4	the first place.
5	So I'm not saying that the information
6	can't get into the record. I'm saying it's more
7	appropriate for legal briefs where attorneys can
8	respond to those issues.
9	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Just a
10	moment. Let me confer with Attorney Martin.
11	(Brief pause.)
12	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Yeah, I think we
13	I don't think we're disputing anything. We can
14	move the I think we can move everything onto
15	the record, understanding that 20, 22, 23, 24 and
16	the rebuttal sections, Attorney Chiavara, that
17	you highlighted will be addressed in the briefing
18	from CPCNH.
19	Is everybody okay with that approach?
20	Okay. All right. Thank you.
21	(Exhibits 1-32 admitted.)
22	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Moving along. So
23	as far as the briefing is concerned, we'll issue

1	a procedural order in the next day or two to
2	highlight parts of the briefing where the
3	Commission requests briefing, but will allow
4	briefing on any topic that the utilities or any
5	of the parties would like to present.
6	We'll offer both briefing and reply
7	brief, and we'll offer a timeline for that, that
8	we can also talk about in a second.
9	And the thought here is to offer 20
10	pages for the entirety of the briefing, and if
11	that's insufficient, please highlight here, and
12	we can we can discuss while everyone's in the
13	room.
14	And then follow-up would be with the
15	joint parties filing a single brief, or would
16	they prefer another approach?
17	MS. MANZELLI: If I may, Commissioner.
18	Over here, we haven't analyzed the question,
19	please, Commissioner Goldner.
20	Twenty pages, meaning spread over the
21	two parties for a briefing, if you could just
22	confirm that, and is that inclusive or exclusive
23	of any attachments?

1	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: So the first answer
2	would be, the concept would be 20 pages for each,
3	although I think the reply would typically be
4	shorter. But I would offer to offer 20 pages
5	for the for both briefings, so 20 pages each.
6	MS. CHIAVARA: And then, if one were
7	to add an attachment, you know, referring to I
8	can't think of an example right now. Would that
9	be counted towards the 20 pages, please?
10	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: We can make that
11	supplemental, maybe offer five pages of
12	attachments, if that's helpful, yeah. So 20 plus
13	five.
14	MS. CHIAVARA: Thank you.
15	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: All right. And
16	then the question on the joint parties, Attorney
17	Krakoff?
18	MR. KRAKOFF: CLF prefers to do its
19	own brief, not joined to the utilities' brief,
20	but I guess the other non-utility parties.
21	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Any any
22	other non-utilities utility parties that want
23	to offer an separate brief?

1	MR. EVANS-BROWN: I think Clean
2	Energy speaking.
3	I think we would like to reserve the
4	right to do our own brief, but would like to
5	chance to confer with the other parties and
6	consult prior to making that call.
7	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Okay. Thank you,
8	Mr. Sam Evans-Brown.
9	MR. KREIS: Hi, Mr. Chairman. It is
10	Attorney Kreis. The OCA would definitely like to
11	reserve the right to file its own brief. I think
12	we think that it's necessary or helpful.
13	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: All right. So why
14	don't we do this. So the joint parties have
15	preserved the right, all of them, to offer their
16	own brief and reply brief, and I think that's
17	acceptable.
18	I'll just offer our encouragement
19	would be to combine as many of the briefs as
20	possible, because 20 times 10 is a big number,
21	so that will be a lot of reading for all of
22	it. But okay. So anything else on the
23	briefs? Is that clear? Attorney Taylor?

And maybe you're going to 1 MR. TAYLOR: 2 get to this with respect to the timing. question was going to be, given that we don't 3 have the usual stenographer, if the Commission 4 has any sense for how long it will take to 5 generate transcripts, because those would be 6 7 incorporated, very likely, into the briefs. So 8 there would need to be some spacing between the 9 issuance of the transcripts and the time that the briefs are obtained. 10 11 So I know you may not have an answer 12 to that question, but it's something to consider 13 in the scheduling. 14 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Yes. So thank you 15 for bringing that up. That is a challenge that 16 we -- we believe that we have a path forward to 17 get a transcript via the process, actually, that -- the traditional branch that the state 18 uses, but that -- that contract is going through 19 real-time, so we actually don't know exactly when 20 21 the transcript will be available. So I don't 22 know how to answer that question, other than, I 2.3 think, Mr. Patnaude was targeting, by contract,

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     14 days off, and it was a little bit longer than
 2
     that.
               But I think in this case, maybe
 3
     planning on 30 days might be prudent, just so we
 4
     can get the contract through and get -- get
 5
     the -- get the transcript in, so -- yeah, once
 6
 7
     you have the transcript, how much would you --
 8
     how much time would you want from there? Two
 9
     weeks enough time, or do you need three or four
10
     weeks?
11
               MR. TAYLOR:
                            I mean, speaking for
     myself, I think two weeks would be sufficient.
12
13
               CHAIRMAN GOLDNER:
                                  Any of the other
14
     parties?
               I'm looking in the back. Two weeks
15
     sufficient, once the transcript is available,.
16
               MR. EVANS-BROWN: Yeah, that should be
17
     plenty of time.
               CHAIRMAN GOLDNER:
18
                                  Okay. And then
19
     another -- one week or two weeks for a reply
20
     brief?
21
               MULTIPLE SPEAKERS:
                                   Two.
22
               CHAIRMAN GOLDNER:
                                  Two?
                                         Two plus two.
23
            So let's do this. I'll just -- I'll
     Okay.
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1 just -- we'll put this in the calendar, just so 2 everybody has the same numbers. So we'll pencil in -- we'll pencil in 3 the transcript by September 20th, which would put 4 the brief on October 4th and the reply brief on 5 October 18th. 6 7 And if the transcript is late, then 8 we'll update the dates so that you can have more 9 time. And I think this is 10 MR. TAYLOR: 11 probably obvious, but just to clarify, if the 12 transcript comes earlier, that's not going to 13 change the brief, correct? 14 CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Sadly, no. 15 And I'll just ask if -- I hope I've 16 covered everything here with the page numbers and the timing and so forth. But if there's any big 17 issues that anyone wants to highlight here before 18 we adjourn, that they want to highlight to rest 19 of the parties, that would be -- that would be 20 21 fine. I want to just afford an opportunity to --22 to comment on this brief in any way that any 23 party would like to comment. Attorney Chiavara?

1	MS. CHIAVARA: Not a comment on the
2	briefs. Actually, I was just gonna small
3	procedural thing. Can we also do written
4	closings since we're doing briefs?
5	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Yes. Thank you for
6	highlighting that.
7	I was just looking at my notes here,
8	and the idea would be to do a written closing
9	inside the brief if if, again, that's
10	acceptable to all the parties.
11	I think a restatement of position,
12	given the quantity of the issues here,
13	particularly with the CPCNH position, would be
14	very helpful to the Commission. So a restatement
15	of position.
16	Attorney Dexter? Oh, sorry, I thought
17	you were
18	MR. DEXTER: I just want to be sure I
19	heard the last part. So closing arguments would
20	be part of the brief?
21	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Yes, sir.
22	MR. DEXTER: Thanks.
23	CHAIRMAN GOLDNER: Just a moment.

1	Okay. Anything else on the briefs? Have we
2	covered everything? Everyone's clear?
3	Okay. Anything else that we need to
4	cover today?
5	Okay. Seeing none, I'll thank
6	everyone for the excellent testimony and the time
7	in this proceeding.
8	We'll issue the procedural order
9	shortly in the next couple of days, and we'll
10	target getting that out.
11	And that is it. Thank you, everyone,
12	for your time.
13	(Hearing concluded at 4:18 p.m.)
14	* * *
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	I, Nancy J. Theroux, do hereby certify
4	that the foregoing transcript is a true and
5	accurate transcription of the within proceedings,
6	to the best of my knowledge, skill, ability and
7	belief.
8	THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATION OF THIS
9	TRANSCRIPT DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY REPRODUCTION OF
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