

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 24-072

TOWN OF BRISTOL

Request for Approval of Bristol Community Power Plan

Commission Approval of Community Power Aggregation Plan

O R D E R N O. 27,055

September 18, 2024

In this order, the Commission approves the Town of Bristol's (Bristol or the Town) revised Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan (Plan).

I. BACKGROUND

On May 7, 2024, Bristol submitted a request for approval of a community power aggregation plan to provide electric power supply and services for residents, businesses, and other entities in Bristol pursuant to RSA chapter 53-E. In addition to the request for approval, the Town submitted the proposed Plan with attachments. The Plan was denied without prejudice on June 27, 2024.

On August 8, 2024, Bristol filed an amended Plan. On August 16, 2024 the Commission issued a supplemental order of notice establishing a deadline for comments on the Plan. The New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) filed comments on August 21, 2024 in support of the Plan.

All docket filings, other than information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2024/24-072.html>.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission has reviewed the Plan pursuant to RSA 53-E:7, II, as amended, which states that

The commission shall approve any plan submitted to it unless it finds that it does not meet the requirements of this chapter and other applicable rules and shall detail in writing addressed to the governing bodies of the municipalities or counties concerned, the specific respects in which the proposed plan substantially fails to meet the requirements of this chapter and applicable rules.

RSA 53-E:7, II, provides specific direction on the process to be used for the submission of such plans, including the following requirements: 1) on the same day the plan is submitted to the Commission, copies shall be provided to the Office of the Consumer Advocate and any electric distribution utility providing service within the jurisdiction of the municipality; 2) the Commission shall accept public comments for 21 days thereafter; and 3) the Commission's review of the plan and comments shall not require a contested case. N.H. Admin R. Puc 2204.01(a) also requires notification of aggregation plan filings be made with the New Hampshire Department of Energy.

The Town's original plan, rejected by Order No. 27,028 (June 27, 2024) failed to properly identify NHEC as an electric distribution utility servicing accounts in the Town. Since the plan was rejected, the Town has amended the Plan to identify NHEC as an electric distribution utility and has provided clarification as to how NHEC customers opt-in or opt-out of the Plan. In its August 21, 2024 comments, NHEC noted that the amended Plan provides sufficient clarification and inclusion of NHEC customers. See August 21, 2024, Comment of NHEC at Tab 8.


Having reviewed the amended Plan, the Commission has determined that the amended plan now complies with the above procedural requirements. Bristol's Plan assumes, but does not require, that Bristol will participate fully in the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) to provide electric energy supply and


related program services. CPCNH is a coalition authorized under RSA 53-A, where member-municipalities utilize joint resources with each other, including shared third-party services, staff support, power solicitations, local project development, information sharing, and public advocacy.

Based on our review of the Plan, we have determined that because the Plan does not substantially fail to meet applicable requirements of RSA chapter 53-E or applicable rules. The Plan contains an adequate level of detail of RSA 53-E:6's statutory criteria, other applicable statutory requirements, and applicable rules including Puc ch. 2200.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby determined that the Town of Bristol's Request for Approval of its Amended Plan is GRANTED.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighteenth day of September, 2024.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 24-072

Printed: 9/18/2024

Email Addresses

ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov
paul.bemis@coolsimsoftware.com
Energy-Litigation@energy.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov