

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

April 23, 2019

Re: IR 15-296, Electric Distribution Utilities  
Investigation into Grid Modernization  
Further Proceedings

To the Parties:

On February 12, 2019, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a report dated January 31, 2019, entitled "Staff Recommendation on Grid Modernization" (Staff Report). This was followed by a Staff led technical session on March 25, 2019. By secretarial letter dated March 13, 2019, the Commission set an April 8, 2019, deadline for written comments and scheduled a public comment hearing on April 12, 2019, for inquiries from the Commission regarding the Staff Report and/or filed comments.

In order to assist the Commission in evaluating how the relevant issues might be resolved in a new docket using adjudicative processes, a technical session has been scheduled for May 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., at which Staff and interested stakeholders should discuss the scope, procedure, and schedule for any such new proceeding. Stakeholders should consider processes for litigation other than the traditional (testimony-discovery-testimony-discovery-settlement conference). Such processes may include accepted forms of alternative dispute resolution; paper submissions ("white papers"); processes used by other administrative bodies, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and any other processes that will lead to efficient presentation and resolution of the issues in dispute. The parties' primary focus should be on the substantive issues identified in the Staff Report, as well as the earlier New Hampshire Grid Modernization Working Group Final Report filed by Raab Associates Ltd. on March 20, 2017.

Staff is directed to file a report summarizing the results of that technical session within two weeks of May 15, 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra A. Howland".

Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

cc: Service List (Electronically)  
Docket File