

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 26-043

ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES

2027-2029 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan

**COMMENCEMENT OF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING
AND NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

On July 1, 2026, a joint petition for approval of the 2027-2029 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan (Plan) was filed by Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource), New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC), Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (UES), Northern Utilities, Inc., Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty Gas), and Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty Electric) (together, the Joint Utilities). In support of their petition, the Joint Utilities filed the Plan and related attachments. All docket filings, other than any information subject to confidential treatment, are available on the Commission's website at PUC Virtual File Room, see [Docket DE 26-043](#).

I. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF PLAN

The Joint Utilities are required to submit a joint energy efficiency (EE) plan to the Commission for review every three years (triennial EE plans). RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(5). Triennial EE plans are funded by the System Benefits Charge, a charge paid by electric ratepayers, Local Distribution Adjustment Charges paid by natural gas ratepayers, and the Energy Efficiency Fund. *Id.*, VI-a(a), (d)(1). According to the Plan, other sources of funding include carryovers from the 2023-2025 triennial planning period, Regional Greenhouse Gas

Initiative (RGGI) auction revenues, and revenues received from the ISO-New England Forward Capacity Market (FCM).

If the Commission denies approval of a triennial EE plan or interim program update, “the most recent 3-year plan, as updated, shall remain in effect until the commission approves proposed changes to that plan or program update filing.” *Id.*, VI-a(d)(5).

The Joint Utilities jointly administer the triennial EE plan, also known as NHSaves, which provides EE and demand response programs to residential, commercial and industrial (C&I), and municipal customers in New Hampshire. Plan at Bates pages 004, 051. The Plan’s primary programs are the Large Business Energy Solutions Program, Small Business Energy Solutions Program, Municipal Program, C&I and Residential Active Demand Response Programs, NHSaves Residential and Income Eligible Programs, ENERGY STAR Homes Program, Products Program, Home Energy Performance Program, and Behavioral Programs, which include Home Energy Reports. *Id.* at Bates pages 023-050. The proposed cumulative funding for electric programs during the 2027-2029 planning period is \$237,319,142. *Id.* at Bates pages 010, 016. For natural gas programs during the 2027-2029 planning period, the proposed cumulative funding is \$41,146,186. *Id.* at Bates pages 010, 017.

As stated in the Joint Utilities’ petition, the Plan’s proposed changes to the current triennial EE plan “are largely budgetary or administrative, with program structure and offerings remaining largely unchanged.” Petition, ¶ 4 (referring to Plan’s Executive Summary and Attachment A). The Joint Utilities requested Commission approval of changes which include: an update to the discount rate calculation; NHEC’s offering of demand response programs; and UES’s, Liberty Electric’s, and Liberty Gas’s utilization of a portion of their prior carryover

balances to increase their on-bill financing funding. *Id.* The Joint Utilities asked that the Commission review and approve the Plan by November 30, 2026. *Id.*

The Office of the Consumer Advocate and the New Hampshire Department of Energy filed appearances on July 7 and July 13, 2026, respectively. Petitions to intervene have been filed by Clean Energy New Hampshire, Southern New Hampshire Services, Inc. d/b/a Community Action Partnership Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties, and Conservation Law Foundation.

II. ISSUES PRESENTED

The filing presents, *inter alia*, the following issues: whether the Plan is consistent with, and complies with requirements of, RSA chapter 374-F, such as its policy “to develop a more efficient industry structure and regulatory framework that results in a more productive economy by reducing costs to consumers while maintaining safe and reliable electric service with minimum adverse impacts on the environment,” RSA 374-F:1, I, and cost effectiveness, RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(4); and whether the results of the Plan’s proposed changes to the current triennial EE plan will be just and reasonable and serve the public interest pursuant to RSA 374:2 and RSA ch. 378. This evaluation will include review of year-over-year changes to budgets, programs, subsidy levels, and measures. In light of the significant energy affordability challenges facing New Hampshire citizens, the Commission will also inquire of the Joint Utilities and other parties regarding the consideration of additional plan modifications, including the appropriate level of utility performance incentive and the expansion of certain beneficial residential EE programs, such as home weatherization. Accordingly, an adjudicative proceeding will be convened to address these issues.

The Commission will be conducting the prehearing conference and any hearings scheduled in this matter in person. The Commission will consider requests to conduct hearings

using a hybrid format to permit remote participation by a specific individual only if the Commission has determined that a sufficient reason has been provided for why that individual would be unable to attend in person. Any party requesting that a specific individual be permitted to participate remotely should file a written request with the Commission's Clerk's Office no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the prehearing conference or hearing date. If the Commission determines that one or more individuals will be permitted to appear remotely, then individuals in the Commission's hearing room, including the Commissioners, will be broadcast on a web-enabled platform.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that an adjudicative proceeding be commenced for the purpose of reviewing and resolving the foregoing issues pursuant to RSA chapter 541-A, RSA chapter 374-F, RSA 374-F:1, I, RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(4), and the Commission's procedural rules; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a prehearing conference, pursuant to Puc 204.07, at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on August 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at which each party should be prepared to address any of the issues set forth in Puc 204.07; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Joint Utilities shall circulate a Structuring Statement to the parties on or before August 7, 2026 and file the Structuring Statement with the Commission no later than August 17, 2026; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the New Hampshire Department of Energy is requested to file its initial statement of position regarding the Joint Utilities' petition, including the reasons for this position, on or before August 17, 2026; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that during the prehearing conference, the Commission will consider the matters listed in Puc 204.07(f), including the establishment of a procedural schedule governing the remainder of the proceeding. Parties and potential parties are encouraged to facilitate the development of a procedural schedule by conferring prior to the prehearing conference, so that the presiding officer can address any matters on which there is disagreement during the prehearing conference; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the prehearing conference, the Joint Utilities shall make appropriate personnel available for the parties to hold a technical session to review the filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any entity or individual may petition to intervene and seek to be admitted as a party in this proceeding. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with RSA 541-A:32, Puc 204.08, and Puc 203.06, any entity or individual seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to the Joint Utilities and any other parties on the service list, on or before August 11, 2026. The petition shall state the facts demonstrating how the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with Puc 204.08; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before August 17, 2026; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the parties may submit a stipulation containing a discovery schedule, statement of any additional issues not identified in this order of notice, and at least three dates on which they would be available for a final hearing in this matter, including how

much time will be required, with a pleading complying with the Commission's administrative rules which requests that the prehearing conference and technical session be cancelled, on or before August 14, 2026. The Commission may cancel the prehearing conference and technical session upon approval of such a stipulation; and it is

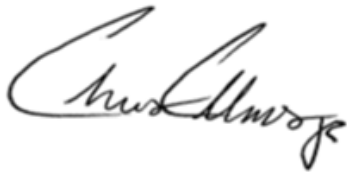
FURTHER ORDERED, that the parties shall file any proposed exhibits, written testimony, motions, or other documents intended to become part of the record in this proceeding with the Commission in accordance with the Commission's administrative rules. Parties may elect to submit any filing in electronic form unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Filings will be considered filed as of the time the electronic copy is received by the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that routine procedural inquiries may be made by contacting the Commission's Clerk's Office at (603) 271-2431 or www.puc.nh.gov/about-us/contact-us. All requests to the Commission should be made in a written pleading filed with the Commission. Unless otherwise authorized by law, *ex parte* communications are prohibited; and it is

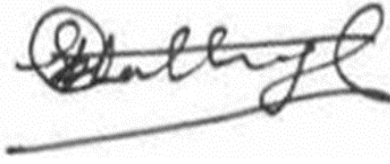
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to Puc 204.04, the Joint Utilities shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on their respective websites no later than two business days after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit(s) filed with the Commission on or before August 4, 2026. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than two business days after the date of issue; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any hearings in this matter shall be conducted in accordance with the attached hearing guidelines.

So ordered, this twenty-ninth day of July 2026.



Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Mark W. Dell'Orfano
Commissioner

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

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 26-043

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