

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

EAP 2025-002

2025-2026 Program Administrative Budgets

September 2, 2025

Commencement of Nonadjudicative Proceeding, and Notice of Hearing

In this order, the Department convenes a nonadjudicative proceeding regarding the 2025-2026 Administrative Budgets for the Electric Assistance Program and sets a public comment hearing for September 8, 2025.

I. Background

On July 29, 2025, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (“Department”) issued a letter to the Electric Assistance Program (“EAP”) stakeholders stating that the Department would take jurisdiction over the EAP on August 23, 2025, and then would schedule a hearing on the filed budgets shortly thereafter. On August 26, 2025, the Department issued an Order *Nisi* in proceeding EAP 2025-001 acknowledging the transfer of jurisdiction over the EAP from the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to the Department pursuant to SB 236 (2025).

On August 25, 2025, the Commission issued a Procedural Order in DE 24-093, stating that SB 236 amended RSA 374-F:4, VIII(c) to transfer the Commission’s authority over EAP to the Department. Procedural Order (tab 64) in Docket No. DE 24-093 at 1.

On August 28, 2025, the Department issued a Revised Order *Nisi* in proceeding EAP 2025-001, clarifying that the proceeding in EAP 2025-002 would be nonadjudicative.

II. Issues Presented

The filing presents the following issue: Whether the proposed EAP budgets for the 2025-2026 program year is consistent with RSA 374-F, as modified by SB 236, and is reasonable. Accordingly, a nonadjudicative proceeding will be convened pursuant to SB 236 as a public comment hearing on September 8, 2025.

The Department will conduct the public comment hearing in this matter in person in Hearing Room B (i.e., Room 121). Formal intervention is not required to participate or to offer comment; members of the public are welcome to attend and offer comment.¹ Should a person or entity wish to become a party to the proceeding, then a motion for intervention may be submitted to the Department's email address proceedings@energy.nh.gov by September 5, 2025, or a motion can be made at the public comment hearing. The New Hampshire Electric Utilities (Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, Unitil Energy Systems, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, and the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative) shall all be treated as mandatory parties to this proceeding. Should the Office of the Consumer Advocate ("OCA") choose to participate, it too shall be treated as a party without need to formally intervene.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a nonadjudicative proceeding be commenced for the purpose of reviewing and resolving the above issue under RSA Chapter 374-F and SB 236; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that the Department shall hold a public comment hearing in Hearing Room B (Room 121) located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on September 8, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., at which each party should be prepared to address the issue set forth by this order; and it is

¹ Please address all written comments, if any, to the Department's Commissioner.

FURTHER ORDERED that the New Hampshire Electric Utilities, including the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., shall be mandatory parties to this proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that should the Office of the Consumer Advocate choose to participate, it shall be considered a party to this proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that intervention is not required to participate in this proceeding or to offer comment, but any entity or individuals may petition to intervene and seek to be admitted as a party in this proceeding; and it is

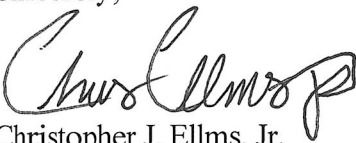
FURTHER ORDERED that parties shall file supporting documents, if any, intended to become part of the record in this proceeding with the Department; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that the New Hampshire Electric Utilities shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this public comment hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on their websites no later than two business days after the date of issue of this order, such publication to be documented by affidavit with the Department on or before September 5, 2025; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that the Department shall post notice of this hearing on its website and on the Walker Building's bulletin board.

So ordered, this second day of September 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Ellms Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Service List (electronically)