

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

EAP 2026-001

2026-2027 Electric Assistance Program Administrative Budgets

August 31, 2026

Commencement of Nonadjudicative Proceeding, and Notice of Hearing

In this order, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department) convenes a nonadjudicative proceeding regarding the 2026-2027 Administrative Budgets for the Electric Assistance Program (EAP) and sets a public comment hearing for September 11, 2026.

Concurrently, the Department will also take public comment whether the Department should approve Administrative Budgets via an Order *Nisi* that provides interested persons with the opportunity for a hearing on contested issues.

I. Background

Pursuant to SB 236 (2025), which amended RSA 374-F:4, VIII(c), jurisdiction over the EAP transferred from the Public Utilities Commission to the Department. As such, it is the Department's statutory responsibility to oversee the electric utilities' administration of the EAP.

As stated in the Department's August 28, 2025 Revised Order Nisi in EAP 2025-001, the Department anticipates scheduling a hearing via an order of notice within a month following the August 1 EAP budget filings. Pursuant to that same Revised Order Nisi, the Department will make no changes to the EAP without notice and the opportunity for a hearing.

II. Issues Presented

The filing presents the following issues under RSA 374-F:3, VIII(c): whether the proposed EAP budget for the 2026-2027 program year is consistent with RSA 374-F and is reasonable; and whether the Department should hold a hearing before approving the Administrative Budgets in every instance or approve Administrative Budgets via an Order *Nisi* that gives interested persons an opportunity for hearing on contested issues. Accordingly, a nonadjudicative proceeding will be convened pursuant to RSA 374-F:4, VIII(c) to address these issues.

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 10, 2026, 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), if they choose to participate, shall automatically be treated as 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.

¹ Please address any written comments to the Department's Commissioner. The Department's mailing address is 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, NH 03301.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

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

FURTHER ORDERED that the Department will take public comment as to whether to approve Administrative Budgets via an Order Nisi that provides interested persons with the opportunity for a hearing on contested issues, pursuant to RSA 374-F:4, VIII(c), before approving the Administrative Budgets; 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 11, 2026, starting at 1:00 p.m., at which any participant should be prepared to address the issues set forth by this order; 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 to this proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that the New Hampshire Electric Utilities and the OCA shall be treated automatically as parties to this proceeding, if they choose to participate, without need for formal intervention; and it is

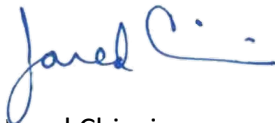
FURTHER ORDERED that the parties, if any, shall file supporting documents, if any, intended to become part of the record in this proceeding with the Department; and it is

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 8, 2026; 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, located near the Department's receptionist's office.

So ordered, this thirty-first day of August 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared Chicoine", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jared Chicoine
Commissioner