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COMMISSIONERS
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

October 31, 2012

100% Other Utilities Assessment
Retrospective

His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Your Excellency and Honorable Councilors:

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission requests **RETROACTIVE** authority to continue its membership and participation in the New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners, Inc. (NECPUC), Vendor # 162916, for the period of October 1, 2012, or the date of Governor and Council approval through September 30, 2013, for an amount of \$24,000.00.

Funding is 100% Other Funds (Utilities Assessment) and is available in account, Organizational Dues, as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY 2013</u>
02-81-81-810010-28120000	Office of the Commissioner	
010-081-28120000-026-500251	Membership Fees	\$24,000.00

EXPLANATION

The New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners is a non-profit organization comprising the utility regulatory bodies of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Established in 1947, NECPUC was incorporated in 1976. Every New England utility commissioner is a member of NECPUC for the duration of his or her tenure. NECPUC provides regional regulatory assistance on matters of common concern to the six New England states. NECPUC has no independent regulatory authority. It addresses issues challenging the electricity, gas, telecommunications and water industries.

Membership in NECPUC has proved especially valuable in responding to increased regional activity and the many significant Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) initiatives. Through NECPUC, we have also been able to leverage staff resources from all the states and, as a result, the work product in both quantity and quality has been at a level that we would be extremely hard pressed to achieve alone. In addition to funding the position of NECPUC Executive Director and the administrative costs of the organization such as quarterly meetings, NECPUC dues help defray legal expenses incurred as a result of the multitude of ongoing FERC proceedings.

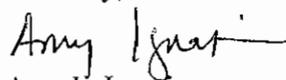
Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. **How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?** NECPUC has been in existence since 1947. The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission has been a member since its inception.
2. **Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** No. NECPUC is the only entity that provides regional education and coordination on issues of common concern such as electric, gas, water, and telecommunications.
3. **How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** The six New England states, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, are members of NECPUC. The Commission is the only New Hampshire agency within the organization.
4. **How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc)** There is a standard fee for all six states.
5. **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** NECPUC coordinates positions on regional issues and has had great success in changing policies that would have been very costly to New Hampshire ratepayers. Increasingly, the policies are determined on a national and regional level; waiting for issues to make their way to the Commission would be too late to have meaningful input.
6. **Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.** Yes. NECPUC sponsors training sessions on emerging issues and to educate new Commissioners and Commission Staff members. NECPUC also coordinates conference call briefings on federal and regional developments that affect New Hampshire.
7. **Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.** No, membership in NECPUC is not required in order to receive federal grants or participate in licensing or certification exams.
8. **Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.** There is no travel specifically tied to the payment of NECPUC's membership dues.
9. **Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.** The Commission is one of six voting members. Chairman Ignatius is NECPUC's treasurer and participates in NECPUC discussions along with the other Commissioners, Michael Harrington and Robert Scott. Commission Staff are active on NECPUC Committees. In addition, Commission Staff members Lynn Fabrizio serves on the Regional Energy Committee; Kate Bailey serves on the Telecommunications Committee; Amanda Noonan serves on the Consumer Affairs Committee.
10. **Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** New Hampshire benefits from the coordinated positions developed through NECPUC. It would be less efficient and less effective for New Hampshire to "go it alone" on these regional issues. Ultimately, it would be New Hampshire ratepayers that would suffer, as NECPUC positions have resulted in reduced wholesale rates that are passed through to customers' retail bills.

This request is **RETROACTIVE** because the invoice was received after the submission deadline for the October 3, 2012 G&C meeting and therefore could not be approved before October 1, 2012. A copy of the October 2012 invoice is attached for your review.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Amy L. Ignatius
Commissioner

Attachment

NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE OF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS, INC.

50 Forest Falls Drive, Suite 6
Yarmouth, Maine 04096-6937
Telephone (207) 846-5440

Hon. John W. Betkoski, III, President

RECEIVED

OCT 05 2012

**NH PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

To: New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
From: William M. Nugent, Executive Director
Federal ID#: 05-0376760
Date: 1 October 2012
Period: 1 October 2012 through 30 September 2013

INVOICE FOR SERVICES RENDERED

- 1) Represent the individual and joint interests of the members of the six public utilities commissions and regulatory bodies in New England in regional utility and regulatory matters;
- 2) Act as liaison between the Commissions and Federal and State governments and regulatory agencies and utility organizations on regional utility matters;
- 3) Organize and assist in the conduct of regional meetings, inquiries, investigations and hearings on utility matters of common interest to the Commissions;
- 4) Analyze, prepare, and present memoranda and position papers on issues of regional interest to Commission members;
- 5) Render assistance to, and respond to the requests of Commission members and staffs for information, data, and analyses of regional regulatory utility issues;
- 6) Follow, analyze, and report on significant developments occurring at Federal regulatory agencies and in Congress on utility matters affecting one or more Commissions;
- 7) Follow, analyze and report on significant developments occurring at Federal regulatory commissions, State legislatures, energy offices and similar agencies in New England and elsewhere on utility matters affecting one or more of the Commissions, and
- 8) Intervene and participate in federal proceedings that affect cost, availability and terms of utility service in New England.

AMOUNT DUE \$ 24,000