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Dianne Martin

COMMISSIONER
Kathryn M. Bailey

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

March 12, 2021

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission requests **RETROACTIVE** authority to continue its membership and participation in the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Vendor # 170718, for the period of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, ½ the annual membership dues for an amount of $5,190.00. Funding is 100% Other Funds (Utilities Assessments).

Funding is available in account, Organizational Dues, as follows:

Account	Description	FY 2021
02-81-81-810010-28120000	Office of the Commissioner	
010-081-28120000-026-500251	Membership Fees	$5,190.00

EXPLANATION

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1889. Its members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate the activities of energy, water and telecommunications utilities. NARUC's mission is to serve the public interest by improving the quality and effectiveness of public utility regulation. RSA 374-F:8 requires that the Commission "advocate for New Hampshire interests before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other regional and federal bodies" and to "participate in the activities of … the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners…" Membership in this organization provides the Commission with valuable support and awareness of developments at the federal level that impact residential and business customers in New Hampshire. Commissioners and staff participate on national committees which promote coordinated action by state commissions to protect the common interests of the people with respect to the regulation of public utilities and carriers. NARUC makes stipends available for trainings and travel to committee and annual meetings. Membership in NARUC has been especially helpful to the Commission in the energy sector where decisions made by federal agencies such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency have a profound effect on energy costs in New Hampshire. This request is **RETROACTIVE** because the Commission requested and received waiver for the first half of the annual dues in light of spending constraints related to the pandemic and, it was not clear until very recently that funding this type of expense would be appropriate for the second half of the year. In light of the pandemic, we requested a waiver of the membership fee, which NARUC did for the first half of the year. A copy invoice for the period January 2021 to June 2021 is attached for your review.

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?** NARUC has been in existence since 1889. The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission became a member following its establishment in 1911 and Commissioners from New Hampshire participated in NARUC's 1911 Annual Convention.
2. **Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** The New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners, Inc. (NECPUC) does from time to time and on a limited basis coordinate policy positions of the New England State Commissions before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. However, NECPUC has very limited staff (one person) and no Washington D.C. presence.
3. **How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** All 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands are members of NARUC. The Public Utilities Commission is the sole New Hampshire agency that is a NARUC member.
4. **How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc)** The annual assessment fees of NARUC member agencies are determined through the application of a formula that specifies that "50% ... shall be divided equally and 50% ... shall be divided in a pro-rata manner in accordance with the most recent decennial census data." The annual adjustment is determined by the previous year's CPI adjustment.
5. **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** NARUC actively promotes various regulatory positions before the federal courts and agencies. It tracks Congressional bills of regulatory interest and presents the views of the Association on those of particular interest, many of which have a direct impact on New Hampshire ratepayers. NARUC keeps its members apprised of current developments of regulatory interest by furnishing the NARUC Bulletin to the key personnel of each member agency and by special mailings of material. NARUC and its affiliates, through the holding of national and regional conventions, seminars and committee meetings and the work of the Washington staff, seek to improve cooperation among the members, promote uniformity of regulation and intensify regulatory expertise. NARUC has also endorsed the continuing educational programs for utility regulatory offered by the Michigan State University and the New Mexico State University.
6. **Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.** NARUC provides an array of training and educational materials to its members, both directly through its meetings, and through its affiliated training organizations, which include the National Regulatory Research Institute, the Institute for Public Utilities at Michigan State University, the Center for Public Utilities at New Mexico State University, and the Public Utility Research Center at the University of Florida. Some training programs are offered without charge, such as NARUC's New Commissioners training program, an array of webinars, and workshops and training activities supported by federal government grants. Other training activities, such as the university-based programs, require additional registration or tuition fees.
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 NARUC 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 NARUC's membership fee/dues. However, NARUC does pay travel costs for members of its Board of Directors and the chairs of its committees to attend its three yearly meetings, and travel stipends for members attending grant-supported workshops held at the three meetings and on a stand-alone basis.
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.)** Chairwoman Dianne Martin serves on the Chair Commission Council and the Cybersecurity Advisory Team for State Solar, Commissioner Kate Bailey – serves on the Committee on Electricity; Debra A. Howland – serves on the Staff Subcommittees on Executive Management; Randy Knepper – serves as the Chair of the Staff Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety; Karen Moran– serves on the Staff Subcommittee on Accounting and Finance; Amanda Noonan – serves on the Staff Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs. Due to the press of Commission work, participation on committees by Commissioners and staff is more often done remotely via teleconferencing rather than attending committee meetings in person.
10. **Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** If the New Hampshire commission were not a member of NARUC, it would be limited in its ability to represent the interests of New Hampshire ratepayers and influence federal legislation and federal energy and communications regulation through NARUC's development of national policy positions and advocacy in Washington. Congress and the various federal agencies would assume that NARUC's policy positions would be representative of all the states including New Hampshire but New Hampshire would have no input into these positions. Additionally, not being able to advocate for our positions through NARUC would mean we would have to do this on our own at a much greater cost. We would also be unable to take advantage of federal funding secured by NARUC and its affiliates for training programs throughout the year.

I am available to answer any questions you may have. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Dianne Martin

Dianne Martin
Chairwoman

Attachment

NARUC

Invoice: INV-066645
Sales Order: SO-066564

Invoice Date: 07/01/20

Due Date: 07/31/20

Sold To: New Hampshire Public Util Commission
Business Office/Lynn Fabrizio
21 South Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Ship To:

Contact:

Currency: USD

Tax ID: 53-020-4609

Order Date	Sales Representative	Terms	Delivery Terms	Ship Via	Customer Purchase Order
07/01/20		NET 30			

Line	Item/Description	Rev	U/M	Invoice Quantity	Net Unit Price	Extended Price
1	MEMDUE FY 2021 Membership Dues SO Line: 1 Membership DMembership Dues for Fiscal Year 2021 - July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.ues for Fiscal Year 2020 - July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020		YR	1	10,619.00	10,619.00
					Subtotal:	10,619.00
				Total Tax/VAT		0.00
					Total Amount:	10,619.00

Remit To:
NARUC
1101 Vermont Ave, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005