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

November 19, 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 July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, for an amount of \$10,768.00. Funding is 100% Other Funds (Utilities Assessments).

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

| <u>Account</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>FY 2022</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 02-52-55-550010-18920000 | Public Utility Commission | |
| 010-055-18920000-026-500251 | Membership Fees | \$10,768.00 |

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 50 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 states that "The commission shall participate in the activities of the New England Conference of Public Utility Commissioners, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners," which requires membership in NARUC. 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 travel to committee and annual meetings. This request is **RETROACTIVE** because the invoice was received after the start of the membership year and due to the restructuring of the agency effective July 1, 2021 and the related transition. A copy of the July 2021 invoice 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) provides regional association with the other public utilities commissions.
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 U.S. Virgin Islands are members of NARUC. The Public Utilities Commission is the sole New Hampshire agency that is a NARUC member. The Department of Energy employees can participate in the activities of the association under the Commission's membership and included in the Commission fee.
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 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 provides training on current regulatory issues, often at no additional charge to its members. NARUC provides mentoring to new Commissioners, as well as education for employees. NARUC has also endorsed the continuing educational programs for utility regulations 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 charges, 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 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. Participation by the Commission is required by state law.
- 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.)** The Chair of the Commission serves on the Commission Chair Council. The members of the Commission participate in various committees and meetings throughout the year. 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.** The Commission would not be in compliance with RSA 374:F-8. The Commission would lose the training and mentoring opportunities provided to Commissioners and Commission employees. In addition, the Commission would also be unable to take advantage of federal funding secured by NARUC and its affiliates for training programs throughout the year.

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and the Honorable Council

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DANIEL C. GOLDNER". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman

Attachment

