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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHAIRMAN
Daniel C. Goldner

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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 New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners (NECPUC), Vendor # 162916, for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, for an amount of $24,000.00. Funding is 100% Other Funds (Utilities Assessments).

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

| Account | Description | FY 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| 02-52-55-550010-18920000 | Public Utility Commission | |
| 010-055-18920000-026-500251 | Membership Fees | $24,000.00 |

## EXPLANATION

The New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners (NECPUC) 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, addressing issues challenging the electricity, gas, telecommunications, and water industries. NECPUC has no independent regulatory authority. 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 NECPUC.

In addition to funding the position of NECPUC Executive Director and the administrative costs of the organization, NECPUC dues from each member state help defray expenses incurred as a result of regional activities involving matters such as consumer protection, electric markets, and, more recently, utility cyber security.

NECPUC also sponsors training programs for member states. 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?** 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. 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 NECPUC's membership fee/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. Commission Staff are active on NECPUC committees, including those concerning consumer affairs, electric markets, regional energy issues, and utility cyber security.
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. New Hampshire benefits from the coordinated activities developed through NECPUC. Many of our regulated utilities and energy suppliers operate in other New England states and the ability to coordinate positions and exchange information is invaluable in ensuring that New Hampshire ratepayers are protected from positions or policies that would negatively impact their rates and services.

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

Respectfully,

Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman

Attachment

G&C 11/22/21
Initial_____
Date_____

New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners
necpuc

Ronald T. Gerwatowski, President
Michael A. Caron, Treasurer

**INVOICE #2021-05**
**NECPUC Dues for Fiscal Year 2022**
**NH Public Utilities Commission**

Date: October 1, 2021

Bill To: Chairwoman Dianne Martin
NH PUC
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Terms: Due on receipt
Check Payable to **NECPUC**
Tax ID # 05-0376760

Description: Organizational dues for regional activities and coordination

**Amount due: $24,000**

Please mail your check, payable to **NECPUC** to:

NECPUC
72 N. Main Street, Suite 206
Concord, NH 03301

Direct electronic transfer to a NECPUC bank account is also an acceptable payment method. Please contact Liza Poinier at liza@necpuc.org with any questions.

## SERVICES RENDERED BY NECPUC

The **New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners**, Inc. **(NECPUC)** is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation comprising the utility regulatory bodies of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. NECPUC was established in 1947 and incorporated in 1976. Every New England utility commissioner is a member of NECPUC for the duration of his or her tenure. The presidency rotates among the six states on an annual basis.

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. NECPUC meets regularly throughout the year and sponsors an annual symposium on utility issues.

Services provided by NECPUC include:

1) Represent the joint interests of the members of the six public utility commissions and regulatory bodies in New England (Commissions) in regional utility and regulatory matters;

2) Provide information and training to the Commissions on regulatory matters;

3) Act as a liaison between the six states on regulatory matters;

4) Act as a liaison between Commissions and Federal regulatory agencies and utility trade organizations on regional utility matters;

5) Organize and assist in the conduct of regional meetings, inquiries, investigations and the hiring of necessary consultants and legal assistance on utility matters of common interest to the Commissions;

6) Render assistance to, and respond to the requests of Commission members and staff for information, data and analysis of regional regulatory utility issues; and

7) Follow and report on significant developments occurring at the federal and state levels on utility issues affecting the Commissions.