

GPO

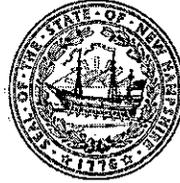
CHAIRMAN
Daniel C. Goldner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

86

Tel. (603) 271-2431

COMMISSIONER
Pradip K. Chattopadhyay



Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

COMMISSIONER
Carleton B. Simpson

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

August 30, 2024

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

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) requests **RETROACTIVE** authority to continue its membership and participation in the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Vendor #170718, for an amount of \$18,447, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. 100% Other (Utility Assessment)

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

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY25</u>
02-52-55-550010-18920000-026-50025 1	Membership Fees	\$18,447

EXPLANATION

This request is retroactive due to the timing of receiving the invoice. 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 Regulation 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.

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

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.
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 (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 members 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 to receive federal grants or participate in licensing or certification exams.
8. **Is there any travel included with this membership fee?** 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 or the organization.)** Commission Staff are active on NARUC committees. Chairman Dan Goldner is a member of the Committee on Critical Infrastructure and the Committee on Electricity, while Commissioner Carleton Simpson is a member of the

Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment and the Committee on International Relations. Karen Moran from the Department of Energy' is on the Staff Subcommittee on Accounting and Finance.

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. 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 position 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.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman
Public Utilities Commission

Attachment: NARUC Invoice



**National Association of
Regulatory Utility
Commissioners**
1101 Vermont Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 898-2200
Fax: (202) 898-2213

Invoice

Invoice #
33970

Payment Due Date:
Due Upon Receipt
Amount Due:
\$18,447.00

August 7, 2024

Jamie A Breen
Administrative Assistant
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street
Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Organization Number: 96

Invoice Details for Membership Dues 2024 - 2025

Jamie A Breen
Administrative Assistant
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street
Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Invoice #
33970



Organization Number: 96

Invoice Details for Membership Dues 2024 - 2025

Product ID	Description	Price	Qty	Total
	State Member (Full) Renewal	\$18,447.00	1	\$18,447.00
Grand Total				\$18,447.00

Payment Details

Date	Method	Amount
Total		\$0.00
Balance Due		\$18,447.00

Please remit payment to:
 NARUC, 1101 Vermont Avenue, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20005
 Bank: SunTrust Bank, 1445 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington DC 20005
 Federal Tax ID: 53-0204609, DUNS: 089191860
 Account Number: 1090000504583
 EFT/ACH Routing Number: 054001547
 Domestic Wire Transfer Routing Number: 053101121
 For accounting or payment questions email Bunnary Tan at btan@naruc.org or call 202-898-2203.