

COMMISSIONER
Jared S. Chicoine

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.



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TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-3670

FAX No. 271-1526

Website:
www.energy.nh.gov

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

March 26, 2025

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 365:37, authorize the New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department) to exercise an available nine-month contract renewal option with Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc. (Blue Ridge), of Travelers Rest, SC, Vendor # 279751, by extending the completion date from March 31, 2025 to December 31, 2025. The contract is to be effective upon the date of Governor and Council approval, with the option to renew for up to an additional 15 months with Governor and Executive Council approval. The original contract was approved by Governor and Council on August 23, 2023, Item #66. No additional funding is requested in this time extension. **100% Other Funds (Special Utility Assessment).**

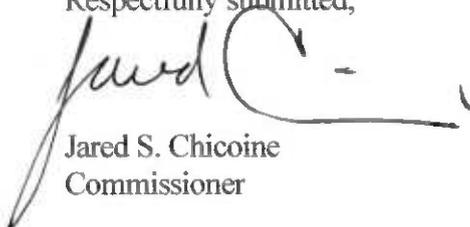
EXPLANATION

The Department respectfully requests authority to amend a contract with Blue Ridge, a consulting firm specializing in strategic analysis and counsel regarding utility revenue requirement matters. Blue Ridge provides utility revenue requirement consulting services on behalf of the Department Staff in Public Utilities Commission Docket No. DG-23-067 Liberty Utilities (Energy North Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities. The docket has taken longer to resolve than originally projected, requiring the continued services of Blue Ridge and extension of the contract.

The contract amount, which is not being increased by this amendment, will not affect the General Fund. Funds will be assessed pursuant to RSA 365:37, which permits the Department to obtain experts and assess the costs to the regulated gas utilities who are parties to the proceeding.

Your consideration of this request is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,


Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

CONTRACT AMENDMENT #1

This Contract Amendment (Amendment) is entered into by and between the State of New Hampshire, acting by and through the New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department), 21 S. Fruit Street, Concord, NH 03301, (hereinafter referred to as State) and Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc. of Travelers Rest, SC, (hereinafter referred to as the Contractor), collectively referred to as (the Parties).

WHEREAS, the Parties have entered into a contract, approved by the Governor and Executive Council on August 23, 2023, Item #66 (hereinafter referred to as the Contract);

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to extend and amend the Contract as provided in this Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Contract allows for amendments by an instrument in writing executed by both Parties;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, and the covenants and conditions contained in the Contract, and set forth herein, the Parties hereto do hereby agree as follows:

1. Section 1.7, Completion Date, P-37 of the existing Contract is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following: December 31, 2025.
2. Exhibit C, paragraph 1 is hereby amended to change the completion date from March 31, 2025 to December 31, 2025.
3. This Amendment hereunder shall become effective upon approval by the New Hampshire Governor and Executive Council.
4. Except as specifically amended and modified by the terms and conditions of this Amendment, the Contract and the obligations of the Parties hereunder, shall remain in full force and effect with the terms and conditions set forth herein.

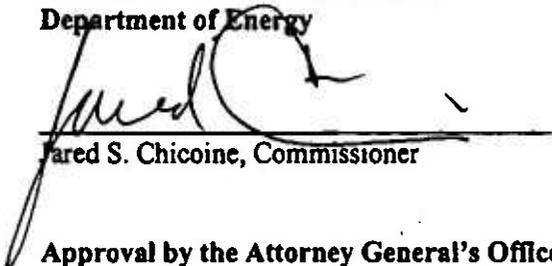
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have set their hands on the dates written below.

Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc.

By: Donna Mullinax
Donna H. Mullinax, President

Date: 1/31/2025

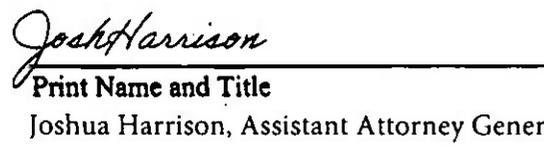
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Department of Energy



Jared S. Chicoine, Commissioner

Date: 2/3/2025

Approval by the Attorney General's Office (Form, Substance and Execution)



Print Name and Title
Joshua Harrison, Assistant Attorney General

Date: 2/20/2025

Approval by the Governor and Executive Council

G&C Meeting Date: _____

G&C Item #: _____

State of New Hampshire

Department of State

CERTIFICATE

I, David M. Scanlan, Secretary of State of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that BLUE RIDGE CONSULTING SERVICES, INC. is a South Carolina Profit Corporation registered to transact business in New Hampshire on June 06, 2017. I further certify that all fees and documents required by the Secretary of State's office have been received and is in good standing as far as this office is concerned.

Business ID: 772428

Certificate Number: 0007036182



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,

I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed
the Seal of the State of New Hampshire,
this 30th day of January A.D. 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Scanlan".

David M. Scanlan
Secretary of State

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY/VOTE
(Corporation with Notary Seal)

I, Tracy Klaes, do hereby certify that:
(Name of Clerk of the Corporation, cannot be the one who signed the contract)

- I am a duly elected Clerk of Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc.
(The Corporation)
- The following are true copies of two resolutions duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation duly held on 1/31/25
(Date given authority)

RESOLVED: That this Corporation enter into a contract with the State of New Hampshire, acting through its Public Utilities Commission for the provision of regulatory consulting services.

RESOLVED: That the Donna Mullinax
(Title of one who signed the contract)

is hereby authorized on behalf of this Corporation to enter into the said contract with the State and to execute any and all documents, agreements and other instruments, and any amendments, revisions, or modifications thereto, as he/she may deem necessary, desirable or appropriate.

- The forgoing resolutions have not been amended or revoked, and remain in full force and effect as of 1/31/25
(Date Contract Signed)

- Tracy Klaes (is/are) the duly elected Secretary
(Name of Corporate Signatory) (Title of Corporate Signatory)
of the Corporation.

Tracy M. Klaes
(Signature of the Clerk of the Corporation)

STATE OF North Carolina
County of Henderson

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 31st day of January, 2025, by Tracy M. Klaes
(Name of person signing above, Clerk of the Corporation)

(NOTARY SEAL) Rayli Suarez
Notary Public/ Justice of the Peace

Commission Expires: 07-26-2027

Rayli Suarez
Notary Public
Henderson County, NC
Commission expires 07-26-27



CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

08/16/2024

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must have ADDITIONAL INSURED provisions or be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

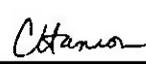
PRODUCER J.Freeman & Associates, Inc. Post Office Box 3597 Greenville SC 29608		CONTACT NAME: P&C-Comm PHONE (A/C, No, Ext): (864) 331-4400 FAX (A/C, No): (864) 331-4401 E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
		INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE	
		INSURER A: The Hartford	
		INSURER B:	
		INSURER C:	
		INSURER D:	
		INSURER E:	
		INSURER F:	

COVERAGES CERTIFICATE NUMBER: CL2481605041 REVISION NUMBER:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL SUBR INSD WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PRO-JECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC OTHER:		22 SBA AA4046	08/15/2024	08/15/2025	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000 DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ 1,000,000 MED EXP (Any one person) \$ 10,000 PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ 1,000,000 GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ 2,000,000 PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG \$ 2,000,000 \$
A	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO OWNED AUTOS ONLY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS NON-OWNED AUTOS ONLY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		22 SBA AA4046	08/15/2024	08/15/2025	COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ 1,000,000 BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$ \$
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UMBRELLA LIAB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR <input type="checkbox"/> EXCESS LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE DED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RETENTION \$ 0		22 SBA AA4046	08/15/2024	08/15/2025	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000 AGGREGATE \$ 1,000,000 \$
A	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below Y/N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	N/A	22 WBC AB5L11	08/15/2024	08/15/2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PER STATUTE <input type="checkbox"/> OTH-ER E.L. EACH ACCIDENT \$ 1,000,000 E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ 1,000,000 E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$ 1,000,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)

CERTIFICATE HOLDER		CANCELLATION	
State of New Hampshire Department of Energy 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10 Concord NH 03302-2429		SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE 	

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMISSIONER
Jared S. Chicoine

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Christopher J. Eilms, Jr.



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

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TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-3670

FAX No. 271-1526

Website:
www.energy.nh.gov

August 23, 2023

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 365:37, authorize the New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department) to enter into a contract with Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc. (Blue Ridge), of Travelers Rest, SC, Vendor # 279751, for \$81,475, to provide utility revenue requirement consulting services on behalf of Department Staff in Docket No. DG 23-067 Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty or the Company). The contract is to be effective upon the date of Governor and Council approval through March 31, 2025, with the option to renew for up to two additional years with Governor and Executive Council approval. **100% Other Funds (Utility Special Assessment).**

Funding is authorized from the account, General Consultants, as follows with the authority to adjust encumbrances in each of the State fiscal years through the Budget Office if needed and justified:

Funding will be available, pursuant to RSA 365:37, in account General Consultants.

02-52-52-520010-13820000-046-500464:	<u>FY 24</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$70,000	\$11,475	\$81,475

EXPLANATION

The Department respectfully requests authority to enter into a contract in an amount not to exceed \$81,475 with Blue Ridge, a consulting firm specializing in strategic analysis and counsel regarding revenue requirement matters. On June 26, 2023, Liberty filed a notice of intent to file request for a change in rates.

The Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on June 29, 2023. The notice of the RFP was published in the Union Leader for three days and was posted on the Department's website as well as the procurement website for the Department of Administrative Services. The Department received two responses to its RFP. An evaluation team made up of the Director in the Department's Administrator IV for Regulatory, Senior Hearings Examiner and the Department's Administrator IV for Audit reviewed the two RFP responses. The bid responses were scored using the selection criteria identified in the RFP, weighted as follows: qualifications, technical,

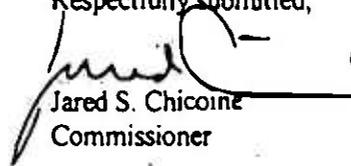
His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
August 23, 2023
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and practical experience (maximum of 25 points); clarity and appropriateness of proposed criteria evaluation, approaches and knowledge of relevant subject matter (maximum 20 points); general experience and qualifications in providing similar services (maximum 25 points); costs (maximum 20 points); and overall responsiveness to the RFP, including completeness, clarity, and quality (maximum 10 points). Blue Ridge was determined to be the highest scoring qualified proposal at 98 points versus an 86-point score for the second-highest qualified proposal.

The contract amount will not affect the General Fund. Funds will be assessed pursuant to RSA, 365:37, which permits the Department to obtain experts and assess the costs to the regulated electric utilities who are mandatory parties to the proceeding.

Your consideration of this request is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

RFP #2023-015 Revenue Requirement	Date of Review: July 25, 2023	
Scoring Team: Deen Arif, Administrator IV; Paul Dexter, Senior Hearings Examiner; Karen Moran, Administrator IV		
Bidder:	Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc.	London Economics International LLC
Qualifications, technical expertise, certifications, and knowledge that the organization or individual possesses, including that of the staff and any subcontractors proposed to be assigned to the engagement, providing services directly relevant to the specified scope of services, ability to perform all of the major disciplines necessary to perform the work, the experience, commitment and role of the firm's proposed manager in charge of providing quality services to the Department, availability and accessibility of proposer staff and subcontractor personnel assigned to the engagement. (Maximum Point Score: 25)	24	24
Clarity and appropriateness of proposed general approaches and demonstrated knowledge of relevant subject matter, including proposed allocation of resources and time to critical tasks, proposed scope of work, project schedule, and distribution of proposed work hours. (Maximum Point Score: 20)	19	15
Experience and qualifications in providing similar services in New Hampshire as well as other states and to other regulatory agencies. General experience providing similar services. (Maximum Point Score: 25)	25	22
Cost of consulting services and expenses, including the competitiveness of the proposed budget and/or hourly rates and any proposed discounts or other benefits. Cost savings that may result from a firm having responded to multiple concurrent requests for proposals may be considered. (Maximum Point Score: 20)	20	16
Overall responsiveness to the requirements of the RFP, including completeness, clarity, and quality of proposal. (Maximum Point Score: 10)	10	9
Total Score	98	86
Pricing	\$81,475	\$98,208

FORM NUMBER P-37 (version 2/23/2023)

Notice: This agreement and all of its attachments shall become public upon submission to Governor and Executive Council for approval. Any information that is private, confidential or proprietary must be clearly identified to the agency and agreed to in writing prior to signing the contract.

AGREEMENT

The State of New Hampshire and the Contractor hereby mutually agree as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. IDENTIFICATION.

1.1 State Agency Name Department of Energy		1.2 State Agency Address 21 S. Fruit St., Sta. 10, Concord, NH 03301	
1.3 Contractor Name Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc.		1.4 Contractor Address 114 Knightbridge Rd., Travelers Rest, SC 29690	
1.5 Contractor Phone Number (864) 420-8084	1.6 Account Unit and Class 13820000-500464	1.7 Completion Date March 31, 2025	1.8 Price Limitation \$81,475
1.9 Contracting Officer for State Agency Faisal Deen Arif		1.10 State Agency Telephone Number 603-271-2441	
1.11 Contractor Signature <i>Donna Mullinax</i> Date: 8/2/23		1.12 Name and Title of Contractor Signatory Donna H. Mullinax, President	
1.13 State Agency Signature <i>Jared S. Chicoine</i> Date: 8/4/23		1.14 Name and Title of State Agency Signatory Jared S. Chicoine, Commissioner	
1.15 Approval by the N.H. Department of Administration, Division of Personnel (if applicable) By: <i>Lorrie A. Rudis</i> Director, On: 8/4/2023			
1.16 Approval by the Attorney General (Form, Substance and Execution) (if applicable) By: <i>[Signature]</i> On: 8/8/2023			
1.17 Approval by the Governor and Executive Council (if applicable) G&C Item number: <i>[Signature]</i> G&C Meeting Date: AUG 23 2023 SECRETARY OF STATE			

2. SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED. The State of New Hampshire, acting through the agency identified in block 1.1 ("State"), engages contractor identified in block 1.3 ("Contractor") to perform, and the Contractor shall perform, the work or sale of goods, or both, identified and more particularly described in the attached EXHIBIT B which is incorporated herein by reference ("Services").

3. EFFECTIVE DATE/COMPLETION OF SERVICES.

3.1 Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, and subject to the approval of the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire, if applicable, this Agreement, and all obligations of the parties hereunder, shall become effective on the date the Governor and Executive Council approve this Agreement, unless no such approval is required, in which case the Agreement shall become effective on the date the Agreement is signed by the State Agency as shown in block 1.13 ("Effective Date").

3.2 If the Contractor commences the Services prior to the Effective Date, all Services performed by the Contractor prior to the Effective Date shall be performed at the sole risk of the Contractor, and in the event that this Agreement does not become effective, the State shall have no liability to the Contractor, including without limitation, any obligation to pay the Contractor for any costs incurred or Services performed.

3.3 Contractor must complete all Services by the Completion Date specified in block 1.7.

4. CONDITIONAL NATURE OF AGREEMENT.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, all obligations of the State hereunder, including, without limitation, the continuance of payments hereunder, are contingent upon the availability and continued appropriation of funds. In no event shall the State be liable for any payments hereunder in excess of such available appropriated funds. In the event of a reduction or termination of appropriated funds by any state or federal legislative or executive action that reduces, eliminates or otherwise modifies the appropriation or availability of funding for this Agreement and the Scope for Services provided in EXHIBIT B, in whole or in part, the State shall have the right to withhold payment until such funds become available, if ever, and shall have the right to reduce or terminate the Services under this Agreement immediately upon giving the Contractor notice of such reduction or termination. The State shall not be required to transfer funds from any other account or source to the Account identified in block 1.6 in the event funds in that Account are reduced or unavailable.

5. CONTRACT PRICE/PRICE LIMITATION/ PAYMENT.

5.1 The contract price, method of payment, and terms of payment are identified and more particularly described in EXHIBIT C which is incorporated herein by reference.

5.2 Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement to the contrary, and notwithstanding unexpected circumstances, in no event shall the total of all payments authorized, or actually made hereunder, exceed the Price Limitation set forth in block 1.8. The payment by the State of the contract price shall be the only and the complete reimbursement to the Contractor for all expenses, of whatever nature incurred by the Contractor in the performance

hereof, and shall be the only and the complete compensation to the Contractor for the Services.

5.3 The State reserves the right to offset from any amounts otherwise payable to the Contractor under this Agreement those liquidated amounts required or permitted by N.H. RSA 80:7 through RSA 80:7-c or any other provision of law.

5.4 The State's liability under this Agreement shall be limited to monetary damages not to exceed the total fees paid. The Contractor agrees that it has an adequate remedy at law for any breach of this Agreement by the State and hereby waives any right to specific performance or other equitable remedies against the State.

6. COMPLIANCE BY CONTRACTOR WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS/EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

6.1 In connection with the performance of the Services, the Contractor shall comply with all applicable statutes, laws, regulations, and orders of federal, state, county or municipal authorities which impose any obligation or duty upon the Contractor, including, but not limited to, civil rights and equal employment opportunity laws and the Governor's order on Respect and Civility in the Workplace, Executive order 2020-01. In addition, if this Agreement is funded in any part by monies of the United States, the Contractor shall comply with all federal executive orders, rules, regulations and statutes, and with any rules, regulations and guidelines as the State or the United States issue to implement these regulations. The Contractor shall also comply with all applicable intellectual property laws.

6.2 During the term of this Agreement, the Contractor shall not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment because of age, sex, sexual orientation, race, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, religious creed, national origin, gender identity, or gender expression, and will take affirmative action to prevent such discrimination, unless exempt by state or federal law. The Contractor shall ensure any subcontractors comply with these nondiscrimination requirements.

6.3 No payments or transfers of value by Contractor or its representatives in connection with this Agreement have or shall be made which have the purpose or effect of public or commercial bribery, or acceptance of or acquiescence in extortion, kickbacks, or other unlawful or improper means of obtaining business.

6.4. The Contractor agrees to permit the State or United States access to any of the Contractor's books, records and accounts for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with this Agreement and all rules, regulations and orders pertaining to the covenants, terms and conditions of this Agreement.

7. PERSONNEL.

7.1 The Contractor shall at its own expense provide all personnel necessary to perform the Services. The Contractor warrants that all personnel engaged in the Services shall be qualified to perform the Services, and shall be properly licensed and otherwise authorized to do so under all applicable laws.

7.2 The Contracting Officer specified in block 1.9, or any successor, shall be the State's point of contact pertaining to this Agreement.

8. EVENT OF DEFAULT/REMEDIES.

8.1 Any one or more of the following acts or omissions of the Contractor shall constitute an event of default hereunder ("Event of Default"):

- 8.1.1 failure to perform the Services satisfactorily or on schedule;
- 8.1.2 failure to submit any report required hereunder; and/or
- 8.1.3 failure to perform any other covenant, term or condition of this Agreement.

8.2 Upon the occurrence of any Event of Default, the State may take any one, or more, or all, of the following actions:

8.2.1 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and requiring it to be remedied within, in the absence of a greater or lesser specification of time, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the notice; and if the Event of Default is not timely cured, terminate this Agreement, effective two (2) calendar days after giving the Contractor notice of termination;

8.2.2 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and suspending all payments to be made under this Agreement and ordering that the portion of the contract price which would otherwise accrue to the Contractor during the period from the date of such notice until such time as the State determines that the Contractor has cured the Event of Default shall never be paid to the Contractor;

8.2.3 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and set off against any other obligations the State may owe to the Contractor any damages the State suffers by reason of any Event of Default; and/or

8.2.4 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default, treat the Agreement as breached, terminate the Agreement and pursue any of its remedies at law or in equity, or both.

9. TERMINATION.

9.1 Notwithstanding paragraph 8, the State may, at its sole discretion, terminate the Agreement for any reason, in whole or in part, by thirty (30) calendar days written notice to the Contractor that the State is exercising its option to terminate the Agreement.

9.2 In the event of an early termination of this Agreement for any reason other than the completion of the Services, the Contractor shall, at the State's discretion, deliver to the Contracting Officer, not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the date of termination, a report ("Termination Report") describing in detail all Services performed, and the contract price earned, to and including the date of termination. In addition, at the State's discretion, the Contractor shall, within fifteen (15) calendar days of notice of early termination, develop and submit to the State a transition plan for Services under the Agreement.

10. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP/DISCLOSURE.

10.1 As used in this Agreement, the word "Property" shall mean all data, information and things developed or obtained during the performance of, or acquired or developed by reason of, this Agreement, including, but not limited to, all studies, reports, files, formulae, surveys, maps, charts, sound recordings, video recordings, pictorial reproductions, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, computer programs, computer printouts, notes, letters, memoranda, papers, and documents, all whether finished or unfinished.

10.2 All data and any Property which has been received from the State, or purchased with funds provided for that purpose under this Agreement, shall be the property of the State, and shall be returned to the State upon demand or upon termination of this Agreement for any reason.

10.3 Disclosure of data, information and other records shall be governed by N.H. RSA chapter 91-A and/or other applicable law. Disclosure requires prior written approval of the State.

11. CONTRACTOR'S RELATION TO THE STATE. In the performance of this Agreement the Contractor is in all respects an independent contractor, and is neither an agent nor an employee of the State. Neither the Contractor nor any of its officers, employees, agents or members shall have authority to bind the State or receive any benefits, workers' compensation or other emoluments provided by the State to its employees.

12. ASSIGNMENT/DELEGATION/SUBCONTRACTS.

12.1 Contractor shall provide the State written notice at least fifteen (15) calendar days before any proposed assignment, delegation, or other transfer of any interest in this Agreement. No such assignment, delegation, or other transfer shall be effective without the written consent of the State.

12.2 For purposes of paragraph 12, a Change of Control shall constitute assignment. "Change of Control" means (a) merger, consolidation, or a transaction or series of related transactions in which a third party, together with its affiliates, becomes the direct or indirect owner of fifty percent (50%) or more of the voting shares or similar equity interests, or combined voting power of the Contractor, or (b) the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Contractor.

12.3 None of the Services shall be subcontracted by the Contractor without prior written notice and consent of the State.

12.4 The State is entitled to copies of all subcontracts and assignment agreements and shall not be bound by any provisions contained in a subcontract or an assignment agreement to which it is not a party.

13. INDEMNIFICATION. The Contractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State, its officers, and employees from and against all actions, claims, damages, demands, judgments, fines, liabilities, losses, and other expenses, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees, arising out of or relating to this Agreement directly or indirectly arising from death, personal injury, property damage, intellectual property infringement, or other claims asserted against the State, its officers, or employees caused by the acts or omissions of negligence, reckless or willful misconduct, or fraud by the Contractor, its employees, agents, or subcontractors. The State shall not be liable for any costs incurred by the Contractor arising under this paragraph 13. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein contained shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of the State's sovereign immunity, which immunity is hereby reserved to the State. This covenant in paragraph 13 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

14. INSURANCE.

14.1 The Contractor shall, at its sole expense, obtain and continuously maintain in force, and shall require any subcontractor or assignee to obtain and maintain in force, the following insurance:

14.1.1 commercial general liability insurance against all claims of bodily injury, death or property damage, in amounts of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate or excess; and

14.1.2 special cause of loss coverage form covering all Property subject to subparagraph 10.2 herein, in an amount not less than 80% of the whole replacement value of the Property.

14.2 The policies described in subparagraph 14.1 herein shall be on policy forms and endorsements approved for use in the State of New Hampshire by the N.H. Department of Insurance, and issued by insurers licensed in the State of New Hampshire.

14.3 The Contractor shall furnish to the Contracting Officer identified in block 1.9, or any successor, a certificate(s) of insurance for all insurance required under this Agreement. At the request of the Contracting Officer, or any successor, the Contractor shall provide certificate(s) of insurance for all renewal(s) of insurance required under this Agreement. The certificate(s) of insurance and any renewals thereof shall be attached and are incorporated herein by reference.

15. WORKERS' COMPENSATION.

15.1 By signing this agreement, the Contractor agrees, certifies and warrants that the Contractor is in compliance with or exempt from, the requirements of N.H. RSA chapter 281-A ("*Workers' Compensation*").

15.2 To the extent the Contractor is subject to the requirements of N.H. RSA chapter 281-A, Contractor shall maintain, and require any subcontractor or assignee to secure and maintain, payment of Workers' Compensation in connection with activities which the person proposes to undertake pursuant to this Agreement. The Contractor shall furnish the Contracting Officer identified in block 1.9, or any successor, proof of Workers' Compensation in the manner described in N.H. RSA chapter 281-A and any applicable renewal(s) thereof, which shall be attached and are incorporated herein by reference. The State shall not be responsible for payment of any Workers' Compensation premiums or for any other claim or benefit for Contractor, or any subcontractor or employee of Contractor, which might arise under applicable State of New Hampshire Workers' Compensation laws in connection with the performance of the Services under this Agreement.

16. WAIVER OF BREACH. A State's failure to enforce its rights with respect to any single or continuing breach of this Agreement shall not act as a waiver of the right of the State to later enforce any such rights or to enforce any other or any subsequent breach.

17. NOTICE. Any notice by a party hereto to the other party shall be deemed to have been duly delivered or given at the time of mailing by certified mail, postage prepaid, in a United States Post Office addressed to the parties at the addresses given in blocks 1.2 and 1.4, herein.

18. AMENDMENT. This Agreement may be amended, waived or discharged only by an instrument in writing signed by the parties hereto and only after approval of such amendment, waiver or discharge by the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire unless no such approval is required under the circumstances pursuant to State law, rule or policy.

19. CHOICE OF LAW AND FORUM.

19.1 This Agreement shall be governed, interpreted and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire except where the Federal supremacy clause requires otherwise. The wording used in this Agreement is the wording chosen by the parties to express their mutual intent, and no rule of construction shall be applied against or in favor of any party.

19.2 Any actions arising out of this Agreement, including the breach or alleged breach thereof, may not be submitted to binding arbitration, but must, instead, be brought and maintained in the Merrimack County Superior Court of New Hampshire which shall have exclusive jurisdiction thereof.

20. CONFLICTING TERMS. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this P-37 form (as modified in EXHIBIT A) and any other portion of this Agreement including any attachments thereto, the terms of the P-37 (as modified in EXHIBIT A) shall control.

21. THIRD PARTIES. This Agreement is being entered into for the sole benefit of the parties hereto, and nothing herein, express or implied, is intended to or will confer any legal or equitable right, benefit, or remedy of any nature upon any other person.

22. HEADINGS. The headings throughout the Agreement are for reference purposes only, and the words contained therein shall in no way be held to explain, modify, amplify or aid in the interpretation, construction or meaning of the provisions of this Agreement.

23. SPECIAL PROVISIONS. Additional or modifying provisions set forth in the attached EXHIBIT A are incorporated herein by reference.

24. FURTHER ASSURANCES. The Contractor, along with its agents and affiliates, shall, at its own cost and expense, execute any additional documents and take such further actions as may be reasonably required to carry out the provisions of this Agreement and give effect to the transactions contemplated hereby.

25. SEVERABILITY. In the event any of the provisions of this Agreement are held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to any state or federal law, the remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect.

26. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement, which may be executed in a number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the parties, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings with respect to the subject matter hereof.

EXHIBIT A
SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. In conformity with Paragraph 12 of the General Provisions, the State hereby authorizes the Contractor to utilize Wen Hudson of Lean Utility as a subcontractor, at the rates specified in the Contractor's Proposal, at the Contractor's sole expense, and the State will reimburse the Contractor for the cost of its subcontractor's services. The State will not pay any subcontractor directly for its services to the Contractor. The amount to be paid to the Contractor, including the amounts paid for services provided to the Contractor by any permitted subcontractor, shall not exceed the Price Limitation listed on Exhibit C.
2. The Contractor may not substitute or change personnel identified in its Proposal without written notice to and the consent of the Department, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld.
3. The Contractor agrees to maintain confidential all information to which it has access until such time as it is instructed otherwise by the Department.
4. In accordance with the provisions of RFP 2023-015, the contract term may be extended by up to two additional years to conduct the same or similar work and the not-to-exceed amount may be increased, all at the sole option of the State, contingent upon satisfactory contractor performance, projected requirements for similar consulting services, and, when applicable, Governor and Executive Council approval.

EXHIBIT B

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The consultant will be hired and supervised by the Department to perform the consulting work, and will work at the direction of, and in consultation with the Department. The consultant(s) chosen will be expected to work on a broad range of financial issues related to the assignment. Among other things, tasks will include:

- Review of the Company's proposed revenue requirements and resultant rate increase;
- Preparation of interrogatories and participation in other discovery activities;
- Participation in technical sessions and settlement discussions;
- Preparation and submission of direct and, if needed, rebuttal testimony;
- Preparation of responses to interrogatories;
- Attendance at hearings for live testimony and cross-examination; and
- Calculation of revenue deficiencies under various scenarios.

The consultant shall conduct an initial project scoping meeting with the Department. The purpose of the meeting is to review and refine the scope, task and project approach requirements; review the allocation of resources among deliverables; establish a project plan, with key deliverables and milestone dates; and establish project management and communication protocols to ensure that the information needs of both the Department and the consultant are satisfied.

In the process of preparing each deliverable, the consultants will work closely with the Department in order to facilitate effective knowledge transfer of each issue. The work of the consultant will be subject to an evaluation of progress achieved against the above-mentioned scope and tasks to take place after completion of the key deliverables identified during the meeting to discuss the scope of the project.

EXHIBIT C

CONTRACT AMOUNT, TERMS AND METHODS OF PAYMENT

1. This contract agreement becomes effective on date of execution by the Department and concludes on March 31, 2025.
2. **Estimated Budget:** Blue Ridge Consulting, Inc. (Contractor) will charge for professional consulting services for time involved and expenses incurred for an amount not to exceed \$81,475. Services will be provided in Exhibit B at the following hourly rates:

*The asterisked names below are those of subcontractors whom the Contractor is permitted to utilize as needed.

Labor Category	Name	Labor Rate (fully loaded) (\$/hour)
Project Manager and Expert Witness	Donna Mullinax	\$240.00
Senior Consultant	Joe Freedman	\$205.00
Senior Consultant	Dan Salter	\$205.00
Consultant	Wen Hudson* Lean Utility LLC	\$190.00
Consultant	Tracy Klaes	\$190.00

All reasonable related out-of-pocket costs and expenses, including travel, approved by the Department, will be invoiced at cost without mark-up and are subject to the Price Limitation below.

3. **Price Limitation:** The contract shall not exceed \$81,475.
4. **Method of Payment:** Payment to be made on satisfactory completion of the assigned work on the basis of monthly invoices reviewed and approved by the Department. All invoices shall be supported by a summary of activities that have taken place in accordance with the terms of the contract, along with a detailed listing of out-of-pocket expenses incurred and copies of receipts. Invoices shall provide adequate back up including the dates and hours worked per individual during the month and the detailed description of the service provided during those hours. Invoices shall be submitted by email to Faisal Deen Arif at Faisal.DeenArif@energy.nh.gov or mailed to him at New Hampshire Department of Energy, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429.

Payments hereunder are contingent upon the availability of funds assessed pursuant to RSA 365:37. The Department will assess the costs of the contract to the appropriate party(ies) and upon payment of the assessment, will process payment to the Contractor.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY/VOTE
(Corporation with Notary Seal)

I, Tracy Klaes do hereby certify that:
(Name of Clerk of the Corporation, cannot be the one who signed the contract)

1. I am a duly elected Secretary of Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc.
(The Corporation)
2. The following are true copies of two resolutions duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation duly held on August 2, 2023
(Date given authority)

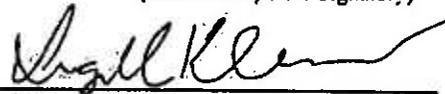
RESOLVED: That this Corporation enter into a contract with the State of New Hampshire, acting through its Department of Energy for the provision of regulatory consulting services.

RESOLVED: That Donna Mullinax, President
(Title of one who signed the contract)

is hereby authorized on behalf of this Corporation to enter into the said contract with the State and to execute any and all documents, agreements and other instruments, and any amendments, revisions, or modifications thereto, as he/she may deem necessary, desirable or appropriate.

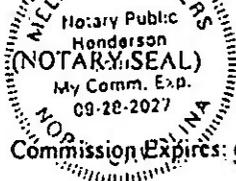
3. The forgoing resolutions have not been amended or revoked, and remain in full force and effect as of August 2, 2023.
(Date Contract Signed)

4. Tracy Klaes (is/are) the duly elected Secretary
(Name of Corporate Signatory) (Title of Corporate Signatory)
of the Corporation.


(Signature of the Clerk of the Corporation)

STATE OF North Carolina
County of Henderson

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 2nd day of August, 2023, by Tracy Klaes
(Name of person signing above, Clerk of the Corporation)




Notary Public / Justice of the Peace

State of New Hampshire

Department of State

CERTIFICATE

I, David M. Scanlan, Secretary of State of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that BLUE RIDGE CONSULTING SERVICES, INC. is a South Carolina Profit Corporation registered to transact business in New Hampshire on June 06, 2017. I further certify that all fees and documents required by the Secretary of State's office have been received and is in good standing as far as this office is concerned.

Business ID: 772428

Certificate Number: 0006236412



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF.

I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed
the Seal of the State of New Hampshire.
this 24th day of May A.D. 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Scanlan".

David M. Scanlan
Secretary of State

