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Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.

COMMISSIONER

Pradip K. Chattopadhyay, Ph.D.

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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September 16, 2026

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

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission requests **RETROACTIVE** approval to continue its membership and participation in the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Vendor #170718, for an amount of \$19,477.00, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. **100% Other (Utility Assessment).**

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

Account	Description	FY 2027
02-52-55-550010-18920000-026-500251	Membership Fees	\$19,477.00

EXPLANATION

The Commission's request for approval is **RETROACTIVE** because the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners membership invoice was received after the start of the membership year. NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889. Its members include the governmental agencies engaged in regulating 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. New Hampshire law requires that the Commission "shall participate in the activities of . . . the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners as the New Hampshire member agency[.]" *See* RSA 374-F:8.

NARUC membership provides the Commission with valuable support and awareness of developments at the federal level that impact residential and business utility customers in New Hampshire. Commissioners and staff participate in national committees that promote coordinated action by state commissions to protect the public interests through the regulation of public utilities and carriers. The Commission's NARUC membership has been invaluable in the electricity and natural gas sectors, where decisions made by federal agencies such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency profoundly affect energy costs in New Hampshire.

Listed below are the Commission's responses to the standard questions required by the Governor and Council for organization dues and membership approval submissions:

- 1. How long has this organization existed, and how long has this agency been a member?** NARUC has existed since 1889. The Commission's predecessor in interest, the New Hampshire Public Service Commission, joined NARUC in 1911. Before and after its name change to the "New Hampshire Public Service Commission" in 1951, the Commission and New Hampshire's utility customers have benefited from the Commission's continued membership in NARUC.
- 2. Is there any other organization that provides the same or similar benefits to which your agency belongs?** No. NARUC is the only national utility commission membership organization that serves the public interest by improving the quality and effectiveness of public utility regulation through national coordination and advocacy on issues of common concern to state utility commissions and supplying specialized utility regulatory education.
- 3. How many other states belong to this organization, and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** All fifty states, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, are members of NARUC. The Commission is the only New Hampshire NARUC member agency.
- 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 by applying 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 previous year's CPI adjustment determines the annual adjustment.
- 5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** NARUC actively promotes 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 directly impact New Hampshire ratepayers. NARUC keeps its members informed of current developments by furnishing the NARUC Bulletin and special notices to the key personnel of each member agency. NARUC and its affiliates, through the holding of national and

regional conventions, seminars, and committee meetings and the work of its Washington, D.C. staff, work to improve cooperation among the members, promote uniformity of regulation, and provide regulatory expertise. NARUC holds a bi-annual “Rate School” for regulators and commission staff and endorses the continuing education programs on utility regulation offered by 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.** Yes. NARUC provides an array of training and educational materials to its members directly and through its meetings and 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, while others, such as its “Rate School” and the university-based programs, require additional registration fees or tuition.
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. Neither federal grants nor any licensing or certification exams depend on NARUC membership.
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.** No. The Commission’s NARUC membership fee does not include travel expenses for the commissioners or the Commission’s staff, except for commissioners who serve on NARUC’s Board of Directors or as a NARUC committee chair. NARUC pays the travel expenses for its directors and committee chairs to attend its three annual meetings. NARUC may also provide travel stipends to state commissioners or staff to participate in grant-supported workshops held at an annual meeting or on a stand-alone basis. No New Hampshire commissioner serves on NARUC’s Board of Directors or as a committee chair.
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.)** Chairman Christopher J. Ellms, Jr., Commissioner Pradip K. Chattopadhyay and Commissioner Mark W. Dell’Orfano are directly involved with NARUC. Commissioner Chattopadhyay is a member of the Committee on Electricity, Committee on International Relations, and the Federal-States Current Issues Collaborative. Commissioner Dell’Orfano is a member of the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment and the Subcommittee on Nuclear Energy. The Commission’s staff members may and are encouraged to participate in at least one of NARUC’s twenty-two staff subcommittees.

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization. New Hampshire benefits from the coordinated activities, national advocacy, and staff training provided through the Commission's NARUC membership. If the Commission were not a member of NARUC, the Commission would lose the ability to represent the interests of New Hampshire ratepayers in national matters 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 assume that NARUC's policy positions represent all the states, including New Hampshire. If the Commission's NARUC membership were terminated, New Hampshire would lose the opportunity to influence national utility regulatory matters as part of a large, coordinated group of states with similar legal, financial, and sovereignty interests. Lastly, termination of the Commission's NARUC membership, whether through non-payment of membership fees or otherwise, would violate state law. *See* RSA 374-F:8 ("The commission *shall* participate in the activities of . . . [NARUC] as the New Hampshire member agency[.]" (emphasis added)).

The Commission appreciates your thoughtful consideration of its request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Ellms Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.

Chairman

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

Attachment: NARUC Invoice



**National Association of
Regulatory Utility
Commissioners**
1101 Vermont Ave NW
Suite 401
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 898-2200
Fax: (202) 898-2213

Invoice

Invoice #
53221

Payment Due Date:
Due Upon Receipt
Amount Due:
\$19,477.00

July 1, 2026

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 2026 - 2027

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

Invoice #
53221



Organization Number: 96

Invoice Details for Membership Dues 2026 - 2027

Product ID	Description	Price	Qty	Total
	State Member (Full) Renewal	\$19,477.00	1	\$19,477.00
Grand Total				\$19,477.00

Payment Details

Date	Method	Amount
Total		\$0.00
Balance Due		\$19,477.00

Please remit payment to:
NARUC, 1101 Vermont Avenue, Suite 401 Washington, DC 20005
Bank: Truist Bank, Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202
Federal Tax ID: DUNS:
Account Number:
EFT/ACH Routing Number:
Domestic Wire Transfer Routing Number:
For accounting or payment questions email Bunnary Tan at btan@naruc.org or call 202-898-2203.