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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In response to unanimous opposition from the six New England states, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued an order yesterday postponing the effective date of the new regional capacity market until at least October 1, 2006, and allowing parties an opportunity on September 20, 2005, to explain their concerns and disagreements with the Locational Installed Capacity proposal (LICAP) through oral arguments.

The New Hampshire Office of Consumer Advocate (NH OCA) would like to publicly thank the four members of NH's Congressional delegation, Senator John Sununu, Senator Judd Gregg, Congressman Charles Bass, Congressman Jeb Bradley, Governor Lynch and his staff, the NH PUC, and NH's electric distribution utilities, PSNH, Unitil, Granite State Electric Company, and the NH Electric Cooperative, for their support and efforts on behalf of NH's electric users. Those combined efforts to prevent implementation of the LICAP proposal resulted in FERC's decision yesterday to delay and possibly avoid the very costly and non-productive implementation of LICAP.

LICAP is a theoretical concept developed by the New England Independent System Operator (NE ISO) to promote the construction of additional electric generation plants in New England. The NH OCA, as well as the other parties throughout New England, believes the LICAP approach will not improve long-term electric reliability and will increase rates by 20-30% within 5 years.

In preparation for legal arguments before FERC, on September 20th, all parties must keep up their efforts to oppose LICAP while developing a less costly alternative which will address the long-term reliability issue more effectively. NH OCA continues to work with a broad New England coalition to develop an alternative capacity mechanism to meet regional electric generation needs in the future.

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