

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RFP No 2018-01

October 19, 2018

NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE'S REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR EXPERT SERVICES RELATED TO Participating in New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission Dockets on Behalf of Residential Utility Customers

	Questions	Answers
1.	Will the work on the upcoming Eversource rate case include a review of the Company's decisions to make additional capital investments in Merrimack Station prior to its sale in early 2018?	No. These issues were resolved via the settlement agreements approved by the Commission in Order No. 25.920 issued on July 1, 2016 in Dockets DE 11-250 and DE 14-238.
2.	Does the OCA intend to rely on the consultant(s) hired via this RFP for work on "smart grid" and related issues?	No. We have previously entered into a contract with Optimal Energy and several sub-contractors for this purpose.
3.	The RFP asks for a "detailed budget proposal," but the RFP does not fully specify the specific dockets on which the consultant(s) will be working. Does an estimate of how much we would need to spend on each issue, or a recitation of how much time each team member would spend on each issue, suffice?	Since the RFP does not specify which specific issues will be the focus of its work in the two upcoming electric rate cases, or which other dockets will require work obtained via this RFP, we cannot expect consultants to provide a traditional project budget. Our review of consultants' detailed budget proposals will focus on hourly rates and, if possible, estimates of how many hours of labor the consultant would expect to need to address specific issues that are common in a general rate case.
4.	To what extent does the OCA view these rate cases as (a) about traditional revenue requirements and cost of capital, with less emphasis on cost allocation and rate design, (b) about mostly residential-specific issues, such as cost allocation and rate design, (c) a major prudence review	Revenue decoupling, performance-based regulation, and other rate design issues have typically been of paramount importance to the OCA in past rate cases. We have typically relied heavily on outside consulting help in connection with these issues. We expect that to be the case in connection with the cases germane to this RFP. Although we have, in the past, tended to

5.	<p>for PSNH/Eversource), (d) emphasizing performance-based regulation and/or revenue decoupling, or (e) something else? It would really be helpful to have some sort of breakdown of anticipated concerns, so we can figure out who needs to be on the team and how much we should tentatively budget for each part of the team.</p> <p>Are you looking just for a set of rates, qualifications, and some thoughts about the issues, so that you can allocate budget by docket and task once the cases are filed?</p>	<p>avoid duplicating efforts undertaken by Commission Staff in connection with reviewing the prudence of expenditures included in utility revenue requirements, we hope to play a more active role in these areas going forward as well. Therefore, if possible, respondents to this RFP should address the full menu of rate case issues.</p> <p>Yes. See response to questions 3 and 4 above.</p>
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