

New York State Energy Marketers Coalition

1012 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

August 17, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honorable Kathleen A. Burgess
Secretary
NYS Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Re: **Case 12-M-0476** – Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Assess Certain Aspects of the Residential and Small Non-residential Retail Energy Markets in New York State.
Case 98-M-1343 – In the Matter of Retail Access Business Rules.
Case 06-M-0647 – In the Matter of Energy Service Company Price Reporting Requirements.
Case 98-M-0667 – In the Matter of Electronic Data Interchange

Re: Customer Notification Letter – Support for RESA’s Request

Dear Secretary Burgess,

The New York State Energy Marketers Coalition (“NYSEMC” or “The Coalition”), a group of like-minded retail electricity and natural gas suppliers who advocate for consumer choice in energy markets,¹ is submitting this letter in support of specific comments filed on August 16 by the Retail Energy Supply Association (“RESA”) and in response to the request by Joint Utilities on August 15, 2016 seeking an extension of time to comply with Ordering Clause 3 of the New York State Public Service Commission’s (“PSC” or “The Commission”) Order Regarding the Provision of Service to Low-Income Customers by Energy Service Companies, issued and effective on July 15, 2016 (“Order”).

NYSEMC does not oppose Joint Utilities’ request for an extension of one week to file individual utility’s Assistance Program Participant letter with the Commission. Our

¹ The comments expressed in this filing represent the position of NYSEMC but may not represent the views of any individual member of NYSEMC.

concern, similar to RESA, is with the tone taken in a draft letter which has been presented by at least one utility, Central Hudson, for intended use with low-income customers. In this letter, NYSEMC believes Central Hudson has over-stepped its responsibility to inform the customer of facts by providing opinion on public policy regarding the value of ESCO service to a particular group of customers.

Specifically, we are concerned that the letter casts all ESCOs in a poor light, regardless of their level of service to customers, including those who provide value-added energy-related products and services.

NYSEMC respectfully requests the Commission to review with careful consideration the language used to inform low-income customers which are returned to utility service at the end of their ESCO contract, and to conform such letters to the factual informational elements contained within the Order.

We further agree with RESA that the Commission apply uniform language to these customers across all utility territories.

Respectfully submitted,

August 17, 2016

New York State Energy Marketers Coalition



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