

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: HOUSE FILE 617 REVIEW OF SPECIFIED PROVISIONS AND UTILITY RATEMAKING PROCEDURES	DOCKET NO. NOI-2023-0001
---	--------------------------

ORDER ESTABLISHING SCHEDULE AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY

INTRODUCTION

House File 617 of the Ninetieth General Assembly of 2023 (HF 617) was signed into law by Gov. Kim Reynolds on June 1, 2023. HF 617 directs the Utilities Board (Board) to “initiate and coordinate an independent review of current Iowa Code provisions and ratemaking procedures.” The review must “take into account the policy objectives of ensuring safe, adequate, reliable, and affordable utility services provided at rates that are nondiscriminatory, just, reasonable, and based on the utility’s cost of providing service to its customers within the state,” which are referred to hereafter as the Policy Objectives.

The Board is required to consider four specific review elements under the mandated review of ratemaking procedures. As stated in HF 617, the elements are:

1. An evaluation of the adequacy of current ratemaking law and procedure to promote the Policy Objectives;
2. Identification of possible changes in law or procedure that might better advance the Policy Objectives;
3. Recommendations for changes in law and administrative rules; and

DOCKET NO. NOI-2023-0001

PAGE 2

4. Identification of ratemaking laws and procedures of other states that, if adopted in Iowa, could enhance the competitiveness of utility rates in Iowa as compared with utility rates in other jurisdictions.

DOCKET APPROACH

In implementing the directives of HF 617, the Board desires to engage in a transparent and robust process that allows the best ideas to be brought forward for Board consideration. To do so, the Board is desirous of not only position papers and statements from parties, but active engagement by and between the parties in response to the ideas of others. It is the Board's hope that through such engagement, new ideas and approaches will be vetted and considered from multiple perspectives. To the maximum extent practicable, filings should reference how the Policy Objectives are supported or advanced thereby.

DOCKET SCHEDULE

The Board will hold three, two-day policy charrettes beginning at 9 a.m. to allow discussion of relevant issues. The first, on August 30 and 31, 2023, will address Element 1, evaluation of the adequacy of current ratemaking law and procedure to promote the Policy Objectives. The second, on September 26 and 27, 2023, will address Element 4, identifying ratemaking laws and procedures of other states that, if adopted in Iowa, could enhance the competitiveness of utility rates in Iowa as compared with utility rates in other jurisdictions, with a particular emphasis on states within the areas served by the regional transmission organizations Midwest Independent System Operator Inc. (MISO) and/or Southwest Power Pool (SPP). The third, on November 1

DOCKET NO. NOI-2023-0001

PAGE 3

and 2, 2023, will address Element 2, identifying possible changes in law or procedure that might better advance the Policy Objectives. The policy charrettes will be facilitated discussions aimed not at restatement of prefiled positions, but discussion of issues raised. Participation in the policy charrettes may be virtual or in person.

Parties may file statements regarding the subject matter of a given policy charrette no later than seven days prior to the charrette. An agenda for each policy charrette will be published after receipt of prefiled comments. The policy charrettes will seek feedback and discussions regarding identified issues. This may be achieved through various approaches, including but not limited to a town hall discussion format, sub-groups to address specific issues, or facilitated conversations between parties. More than 30 parties have registered to participate in this docket. Therefore, to ensure that every party is heard, the Board will also allow subsequent filings after a policy charrette up to one week following its conclusion.

The Board will consider the information from these policy charrettes and its own research to create the review, as required by Element 3. The review will describe the Board's view of current ratemaking statute and rules and procedures, and it will include proposed changes, if any, to the same. By law the review must be delivered to the Iowa Legislature by January 1, 2024.

In order to facilitate timely direction to achieve the timeline required by HF 617, and in light of other pending full Board commitments, the Board is delegating to Board Member Sarah Martz and attorney Chris Storey the authority to issue instructions regarding the conduct and content of this docket, including but not limited to establishing

DOCKET NO. NOI-2023-0001

PAGE 4

an agenda and determining the conduct for each policy charrette, requesting follow-up filings from all or some parties, and the ability to modify the procedural schedule.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The procedural schedule for this docket is set forth in Attachment A.
2. Board Member Sarah Martz or attorney Chris Storey may issue instructions regarding the conduct and content of this docket.

UTILITIES BOARD

Erik M. Helland Date: 2023.08.07
15:07:41 -05'00'

Joshua Byrnes Date: 2023.08.07
14:31:16 -05'00'

ATTEST:

Kerrilyn Russ 2023.08.07
15:32:12 -05'00'

Sarah Martz Date: 2023.08.07
13:37:47 -05'00'

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 7th day of August, 2023.

NOI-2023-0001 - Procedural Schedule

Activity	Date
Policy Statements from Interested Parties re Charrette 1	8/23/2023
Policy Charrette 1: Review of Current Ratemaking	8/30/2023 - 8/31/2023
Final Comments for Policy Charrette 1	9/7/2023
Policy Statements from Interested Parties re Charrette 2	9/19/2023
Policy Charrette 2: Review of Other State Ratemaking	9/26/2023 - 9/27/2023
Final Comments for Policy Charrette 2	10/4/2023
Policy Statements from Interested Parties re Charrette 3	10/25/2023
Policy Charrette 3: Possible Changes in Law or Procedure	11/1/2023 - 11/2/2023
Final Policy Statements	11/9/2023