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THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

January 13, 2016

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Your Excellency and Honorable Councilors:

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission requests **RETROACTIVE** authority to renew its membership and participation in the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI), Vendor # 167485, for the period of January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016, for an amount of \$8,625.00. Funding is 100% Other Funds (Utilities Assessments).

Funding is available in account, Organizational Dues, as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>
02-81-81-810010-28120000	Office of the Commissioner	
010-081-28120000-026-500251	Membership Fees	\$8,625.00

EXPLANATION

NRRI is the official research arm of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and provides objective research and services to inform and advance regulatory policy. NRRI performs client-driven research services across all aspects of utility regulation, the results of which are published and disseminated to member Commissions. NRRI offers support on organizational design and other management issues and provides a knowledge base for understanding how particular issues are being addressed in other states. This request is **RETROACTIVE** and is only effective for a six month period because the invoice was received after January 1, 2016. A copy of the July 2015 invoice is attached for your review. The Commission has successfully negotiated the membership fee from \$17,250.00 to \$8,625.00 to reflect the reduced membership period.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. **How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?** NRRI was founded in 1976 by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC) as its research arm and, except for last year, the Commission has been a member of NRRI since its inception.
2. **Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** There is no other organization that provides the same or similar benefits to the Commission.
3. **How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** The Commission is the sole New Hampshire agency that is a NRRI member.
4. **How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc)** NRRI's dues structure is set by NARUC and is primarily based on population with a maximum amount for larger states.
5. **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** NRRI provides current, unbiased research on utility regulatory topics in the form of reports that are relevant to the Commission. NRRI's reports are based on the needs of the state utility commissions/agencies that it serves. NRRI also provides regular teleseminars and training on relevant topics that benefits state utility regulatory commissions. If required, NRRI can provide training that is tailored to a particular state commission's requirements. The Commission has in the past used NRRI consultant services at no cost for advice on utility regulatory best practices and effective organizational structures for state commissions.
6. **Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.** NRRI's research material is available publicly and there is no additional cost. Participation in NRRI's teleseminars is at no cost to state employees. Basic training is provided at no cost unless there are specific travel and seminar costs, but these have to be pre-approved by the host state agency.
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, membership in NRRI is not required in order to receive federal grants or participate in licensing or certification exams.
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 travel is included with this membership fee. If a Commissioner is a member of the NRRI Board of Directors, then that Commissioner may be funded by NRRI to attend NRRI's Board meetings.
9. **Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization?)** All Commissioners and staff can be involved in NRRI activities such as training and seminars. Currently, the Commission does not have any members on the NRRI Board, and therefore, does not vote in NRRI Board meetings.
10. **Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** The Commission would not have access to teleseminars, research, and training that is provided by NRRI. NRRI's research on utility matters provides unbiased research that is based on state commissions' current needs which is a major benefit to the Commission.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Martin P. Honigberg
Chairman

Attachment

RECEIVED

JAN 00 2016

Invoice: INV-064854
Sales Order: SO-064778

NEW HAMPSHIRE
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Page 1 of 1
Invoice Date: 07/01/15
Due Date: 07/31/15



Sold To: New Hampshire Public Util Commission
Business Office
21 South Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Ship To:

Currency: USD

Tax ID: 53-020-4609

Order Date	Sales Representative	Terms	Delivery Terms	Ship Via	Customer Purchase Order		
07/01/15		NET 30					
Line	Item / Description	Qty	Rate	U/M	Invoice Quantity	Net Unit Price	Extended Price
1	NRRI Dues			YR	1.0000	17,250.0000	17,250.00
	SO Line: 1						
	NRRI Dues for Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016)						
Remit To: NARUC 1101 Vermont Ave, NW Suite 200 Washington, DC 20005						Subtotal: 17,250.00 Total Tax/VAT: 0.00 Total Amount: 17,250.00	