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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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CASD MEMO 2026-04

To: Electric Utilities

From: Derek D. Davidson, Director, Consumer Assistance and Safety Division (CASD)
Maine Public Utilities Commission

Date: July 8, 2026

Re: Data Sharing and Protection Agreement between Electric Utilities and DHHS

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On December 17, 2025, the Commission adopted modifications to Chapter 314 of its rules, Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan (LIAP), which among other things: kept the same apportionment and assessment process; required the investor-owned utilities to redesign their programs and implement a new discount rate program to begin October 1, 2026; did not modify the way consumer-owned utilities' programs operate; and required all electric utilities to implement automatic enrollment of DHHS means-tested program participants. Specifically, section 6(B) of the rule provides that on a quarterly basis, DHHS will exchange client information relating to its means-tested programs with the electric utilities so the utilities may enroll eligible customers in their respective LIAPs. The rule further provides that DHHS will also provide the utilities with real-time access to its client information so they may determine eligibility for the LIAP on an individual customer basis.

As discussed at the April 22, 2026,[1] workshop, all electric utilities must adopt auto enrollment of DHHS eligible participants as of October 1, 2026. To facilitate the exchange of information between the electric utilities and DHHS, each of the electric utilities must sign a Date Sharing and Protection Agreement (DSA) with DHHS. The DSA is the same for all electric utilities and is attached with this memorandum. Please sign the DSA (where highlighted in yellow) and return it to Jason Spector at DHHS as soon as possible, but no later than August 1. Jason is cc:ed on this memorandum.

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[1] The Commission held a workshop on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, to provide information to, and answer questions from, the electric utilities regarding implementation of the chapter 314 rule changes.

LOCATION: 26 Katherine Drive, Hallowell, ME 04347 MAIL: 18 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0018
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I also wish to note that the legislature approved an additional $7.5 million of LIAP funding during this past session. The Commission will soon be issuing an Order amending the funding level for the LIAP established by Commission Order on April 14, 2026. The Order will increase the overall funding level of the LIAP from $33 million to $40.5 million. The Order will also update the apportionments for each of the electric utilities.[2] Finally, the Order will provide a waiver of section 4 of Chapter 815 of the Commission rules to clarify that electric utilities may share customer information with DHHS for the purpose of enrolling customers in LIAP.[3] The draft Commission Order is scheduled to appear on the July 14, 2026, deliberations session.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these matters. I can be reached at (207) 287-1596 or at derek.d.davidson@maine.gov.

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[2] The updated apportionment amounts were calculated the same way that the original apportionment amounts were calculated in the April 14th Order using the methods outlined in Chapter 314.

[3] Chapter 815, section 4(A) generally provides that a utility may not disclose, sell or transfer, individual customer information, including, but not limited to, a customer's name, physical or mailing address, email address, telephone number, electricity or gas usage, payment and credit history, financial condition or medical condition of a customer or member of a customer's family to a third party without the consent of the customer on a case-by-case basis.