

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Docket No. DE 17-XXX

**PETITION FOR RECOVERY OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTANT
COSTS**

Pursuant to Puc 202.01(a) and Puc 203.06, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “the Company”) hereby petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for an adjustment to its distribution rates to permit recovery of the costs associated with the change in Eversource’s share of the Commission’s assessment, and with Eversource’s share of certain consultant costs of the Commission Staff and the Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”). In support of its Petition, Eversource says the following:

1. With respect to assessment costs, pursuant to RSA chapter 363-A Eversource is responsible for a share of the Commission’s annual expenses. In 2014, RSA chapter 363-A was amended to provide that the amounts assessed to utilities such as Eversource are recoverable through distribution rates. *See* RSA 363-A:6, I. Following the amendment to RSA chapter 363-A, Eversource petitioned to recover the then-current (fiscal year 2015) level of its assessment through its distribution rates. *See generally* Docket No. DE 14-347. That petition was approved by Order No. 25,743 (December 29, 2014). Despite minor fluctuations in the amount of the assessment, Eversource’s distribution rates have not been adjusted to account for any change in the assessment since that time.

2. In fiscal year 2018, the amount of assessment costs billed to Eversource increased significantly over that presently included in Eversource’s rates. In fiscal year 2016, the assessment amount was approximately \$48,000 lower than the prior year, and in fiscal year 2017 was approximately \$86,000 higher resulting in a total deviation from the

amount in Eversource's rates of approximately \$58,000, which Eversource believed was sufficiently immaterial that it did not justify seeking an adjustment to distribution rates. For fiscal year 2018, however, the assessment is approximately \$874,000 higher than the amount presently recovered through Eversource's rates. Accordingly, Eversource hereby petitions the Commission for an adjustment to its distribution rates to recover the increased assessment expense pursuant to RSA 363-A:6.

3. Enclosed with this petition are the pre-filed testimony, attachments and exhibits of Christopher J. Goulding supporting the requested change to Eversource's distribution rates to account for the change in the amount of the assessment. Consistent with RSA 363-A:6, and Order No. 25,743, the enclosed material supports adjusting Eversource's distribution rates to recover the increased assessment level, taking into account the various adjustments that have occurred since the last change authorized at the end of 2014.

4. Regarding the consultant costs, in Docket No. IR 15-296 relating to grid modernization and Docket No. DE 16-576 relating to net metering, the Commission Staff and/or OCA retained consulting services to enable their participation in those proceedings. Pursuant to RSA 365:37, II the Commission is permitted to assess the expenses of experts it retains to the utilities in New Hampshire, and pursuant to RSA 363:28, III, the expert expenses of the OCA may likewise be assessed to utilities. For each kind of expenses, utilities are permitted timely recovery of those expenses. *See* RSA 365:38-a and RSA 363:28, III.

5. Through this petition, Eversource seeks approval to adjust its distribution rates coincident with the adjustment for the Commission assessment, to recover the expenses incurred by OCA and Staff from 2016 to present from the above-referenced proceedings.¹ As specified in the enclosed testimony and attachments, the costs associated with the consultants in the grid modernization proceeding total \$140,000 and the costs associated

¹ This request is consistent with the essentially identical expenses for which cost recovery was recently authorized for Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. in its distribution rate case in Docket No. DE 16-384. *See* Order No. 26,007 (April 20, 2017).

with the net metering proceeding total \$291,000, for a grand total of \$431,000. The combined change to distribution rates resulting from both of the above changes would be, on average, an increase of \$0.017 per kwh.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission grant this petition and request, and order such further relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of October, 2017.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

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