

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

NHPUC 21MAY18AM9:49

DATE: May 21, 2018

FROM: Amanda O. Noonan 

SUBJECT: DE 18-068 Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
d/b/a Eversource Energy Proposed Tariff Amendment Re: Electric Assistance  
for Outdoor Lighting

TO: Martin Honigberg  
Kathryn Bailey  
Michael Giaimo  
Debra Howland  
Paul Dexter

On April 23, 2018, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a proposed amendment to its tariff relative to outdoor lighting and the Electric Assistance Program (EAP) discount. Citing discussions of the EAP Advisory Board (Board), Eversource stated that the Board “determined that it would be appropriate to end the application of the EAP discount to outdoor lighting accounts service under rate OL”, and Eversource was proposing the tariff amendment to conform to the Board’s determination.

The role of the EAP Advisory Board is to serve as a conduit between the parties involved in the EAP and the Commission. The Advisory Board’s responsibilities include long-term oversight of the EAP, the drafting of policy recommendation and the provision of clarification and guidance to the parties responsible for administering the program.<sup>1</sup> In April 2017, the utilities made the Board aware that there was not consistent treatment among the utilities of EAP participants with outdoor lighting service. Outdoor lighting service provided to EAP participants was discussed at the Board’s April 2017, July 2017 and October 2017 meetings. In the course of those discussions, the Board learned that Unitil and Liberty separately metered outdoor lighting service and did not apply the EAP discount to the outdoor lighting account; the EAP discount was only applied to the customer’s residential service account. Eversource separately metered outdoor lighting service, but Eversource did not establish a separate account for the outdoor lighting charges. Those Eversource customers who participated in the EAP and had outdoor lighting service received one bill combining their residential service and their outdoor lighting service with the EAP discount applied to both services. New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) did not separately meter or establish a separate account for outdoor lighting service, and, like Eversource customers, NHEC customers who participated in the EAP and had outdoor lighting service received one bill combining their residential service and their outdoor lighting service

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<sup>1</sup> See June 21, 2002 submittal of the Low Income Working Group in DE 02-034, redefining the roles of the EAP program partners as requested by the Commission.

with the EAP discount applied to both services. At the Board's October 2017 meeting, the Board agreed that the EAP discount applied only to one account and also agreed that separately metered outdoor lighting service should be considered a separate account and not eligible for the EAP discount.<sup>2</sup>

Eversource's proposed tariff amendment is consistent with the Board's October 27, 2017, clarification regarding the application of the EAP discount to outdoor lighting service, and Staff recommends the Commission allow the proposed tariff to go into effect.

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<sup>2</sup> See October 27, 2017, meeting minutes of the EAP Advisory Board.

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Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov  
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov  
leszek.stachow@puc.nh.gov  
matthew.foosum@eversource.com  
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov  
paul.dexter@puc.nh.gov  
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov

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