

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 19-057

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Notice of Intent to File Rate Schedules

**Order Suspending Tariff and Scheduling
Prehearing Conference and Temporary Rate Hearing**

ORDER NO. 26,250

May 8, 2019

This order suspends Eversource's proposed tariff for a temporary rate increase pending further investigation. It also schedules a Prehearing Conference on May 21, 2019, and schedules a hearing on temporary rates on June 18, 2019.

On March 22, 2019, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource or the Company) filed a Notice of Intent to File Rate Schedules pursuant to RSA 378:27 and N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1604.05. On April 26, 2019, Eversource filed a petition for temporary rates along with a Notice of Intent to File Rate Schedules for its permanent rate request on or about May 28, 2019. Eversource also filed proposed tariffs and rate schedules, along with supporting testimony and related exhibits. With its submission, Eversource filed a request for waiver from certain notice provisions in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1202.03. Eversource requested that the temporary rates take effect on July 1, 2019, and also informed the Commission that its permanent rate request will seek an annual distribution rate increase of \$70 million.

The Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a letter on March 25, 2019, indicating that it would be participating in this docket on behalf of residential customers pursuant to RSA 363:28.

Eversource testified that its request for temporary rate relief is driven by: (1) a revenue deficiency of \$12 million created by increased capital investment made by the Company since its last rate case in 2009; (2) the reclassification of certain vegetation management costs amounting to \$18 million; and (3) the need to recover significant deferred storm costs. The request also credits customers with the benefit of the tax savings associated with recent income tax rate changes. Eversource said it incorporated certain normalizing adjustments in the cost of service for non-recurring items, but the adjustments do not materially change the Company's overall requested revenue deficiency of \$33 million to be recovered through temporary rates proposed for effect on July 1, 2019.

Eversource stated that the temporary rate percentage increase to customer bills will vary by rate class due to differences between class rate structures, and within each class due to consumption characteristics. Monthly bills for a residential customer taking energy service from Eversource using 600 kilowatt hours (kWh) would increase by 2.9 percent. Currently, the monthly customer charge for residential customers is \$12.69 per month. If the requested temporary rate increase is approved, that charge will increase to \$13.89 per month. The distribution portion of the bill will increase from 4.141 cents per kWh, to 4.532 cents per kWh. Other customer classes will experience bill increases ranging from 0.9 percent to 6.3 percent.

Eversource's temporary rate schedule involves a general increase in rates, and requires further investigation. Pursuant to RSA 378:6, I, we suspend the proposed tariffs until such time that the Commission has held a hearing and ruled on the merits of the proposed temporary rates.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the proposed temporary rates are just, reasonable, and lawful as required by RSA 374:2 and RSA 378:7; whether Eversource's request for waiver of Puc 1203.02 is in the public interest; and whether the proposed rate increases yield not less than a reasonable return on the cost of the property of the utility, used

and useful in the public service, less accrued depreciation, as shown by the reports of the utility filed with the Commission pursuant to RSA 378:27. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2019/19-057.html>.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the proposed tariff pages are hereby suspended pursuant to RSA 378:6, I pending investigation and further order of the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on May 21, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Eversource, the Office of the Consumer Advocate, Staff of the Commission, and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than May 15, 2019, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before May 17, 2019; and it is

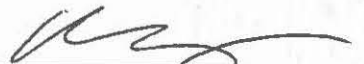
FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission


seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Eversource and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before May 17, 2019, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17; and it is


FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before May 21, 2019; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a hearing on temporary rates pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12 be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire at 9:00 a.m. on June 18, 2019.

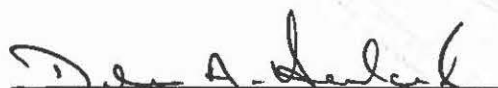
By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighth day of May, 2019.


Martin P. Honigberg
Chairman


Kathryn M. Bailey
Commissioner


Michael S. Giaimo
Commissioner

Attested by:


Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov
allen.desbiens@eversource.com
brian.buckley@oca.nh.gov
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov
dvenora@keeganwerlin.com
eric.chung@eversource.com
erica.menard@nu.com
james.brennan@oca.nh.gov
johndefever@yahoo.com
kristi.davie@eversource.com
marc.lemenager@eversource.com
mcampbell@keeganwerlin.com
melissa.price@eversource.com
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
pradip.chattopadhyay@oca.nh.gov
rnelson@strategen.com
robert.bersak@eversource.com
tmlarkinassociates@gmail.com
matthew.fossum@eversource.com
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov
elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov
Jacqueline.Trottier@puc.nh.gov
jay.dudley@puc.nh.gov
kurt.demmer@puc.nh.gov
leszek.stachow@puc.nh.gov
richard.chagnon@puc.nh.gov
suzanne.amidon@puc.nh.gov
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov