

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. DE 17-096

**ISSUANCE OF RATE REDUCTION BONDS PURSUANT TO 2015 PSNH
RESTRUCTURING AND RATE STABILIZATION AGREEMENT**

PETITION FOR FINDINGS OF FACT
AND FOR
ISSUANCE OF FINANCE ORDER

JUNE 15, 2017

UPDATED NOVEMBER 13, 2017

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Pursuant to RSA Chapter 369-B, Puc 202.1(a), and Puc 203.06, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“PSNH” or the “Company”) hereby petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) for certain findings of fact and for issuance of a finance order to authorize the recovery of certain costs that result from the divestiture of its generating assets through the issuance of rate reduction bonds (the “RRBs”). In support of this Petition, PSNH provides the following information:

I. INTRODUCTION

The securitization by PSNH of certain of its costs as contemplated by (i) RSA Chapter 369-B, (ii) the 2015 Public Service Company of New Hampshire Restructuring and Rate Stabilization Agreement dated June 10, 2015 (as amended, the “2015 Settlement Agreement”) and, (iii) the Commission’s Order No. 25,920 dated July 1, 2016, in Docket No. DE 14-238, approving the 2015 Settlement Agreement, will require the prior approval by the Commission in the form of a finance order (the “Finance Order”). As contemplated by Section IX.C of the 2015

Settlement Agreement, the Finance Order must contain provisions that maximize the likelihood of achieving “triple-A” ratings on the RRBs and enhance the marketability of the RRBs.

Accordingly, a detailed description (the “Transaction Description”) of PSNH’s proposed RRB transaction (the “RRB Transaction”), together with requested findings (the “Findings”) and orders and approvals (the “Orders and Approvals”) are attached to this Petition.

Pursuant to RSA Chapter 369-B, PSNH proposes that, in the Finance Order, the Commission, among other things;

(i) approve the issuance of RRBs in an amount sufficient to refinance the unrecovered net book value of any of PSNH’s generation assets to be divested pursuant to the 2015 Settlement Agreement (“Stranded Costs”), together with any unrecovered deferrals, transaction costs, tax stabilization payments, employee protections and other costs as contemplated in the 2015 Settlement Agreement related to such divestures (collectively, the “Securitized Costs”), with the range of such amount to be determined by the Commission as described in the testimony of Eric H. Chung, Director, Revenue Requirements (NH) and Regulatory Projects for Eversource Energy Service Company (the “Chung Testimony”);

(ii) establish the charge from which the RRBs will be repaid (as defined in RSA 369-B:2, XIII, the “RRB Charge”), the calculation and the collection from retail customers which is described in the testimonies of Emilie O’Neil, Assistant Treasurer – Corporate Finance and Cash Management for Eversource Energy Service Company (the “O’Neil Testimony”) and Christopher J. Goulding, Manager – Revenue Requirement for Eversource Energy Service Company (the “Goulding Testimony”), included with this Petition;

(iii) approve the organization and capitalization of a special purpose financing entity (“SPE”), to which the RRB Charge and other related rights (as defined in RSA 369-B:2, XV, the “RRB Property”) will be sold;

(iv) provide for the periodic adjustment of the RRB Charge via a true-up mechanism described in the Transaction Description and in the O’Neil Testimony and the Goulding Testimony;

(v) approve the general structure of the RRB Transaction and terms of the RRBs, as described herein, including the proposed use of proceeds, as described in the testimony of Katrina Niehaus, Managing Director of Goldman Sachs, included with this Petition (the “Niehaus Testimony”) and the O’Neil Testimony;

(vi) approve the servicing of the RRB Charge by PSNH, as the initial servicer for the RRB Property, or any successor servicer, under a servicing agreement;

(vii) approve necessary Tariff provisions required to implement recovery of the RRB Charge from customers;

(viii) declare that the Finance Order shall be irrevocable as provided in RSA Chapter 369-B;

(ix) find the RRB Charge to be just and reasonable; and

(x) find and declare the issuance of the Finance Order to be consistent with the public interest pursuant to RSA 369-B:3, I and RSA 369-B:1, XVI.

II. PSNH’S REQUESTED TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION

PSNH respectfully requests that the Commission include in the Finance Order the Transaction Description that is set forth in Attachment A to this Petition.

III. PSNH’S REQUESTED FINDINGS

PSNH respectfully requests that the Commission make in the Finance Order the Findings that are set forth in Attachment B to this Petition.

IV. PSNH’S REQUESTED ORDERS AND APPROVALS

PSNH respectfully requests that the Commission include in the Finance Order the Orders and Approvals that are set forth in Attachment C to this Petition.

V. PRE-FILED TESTIMONY

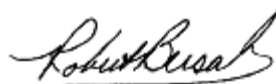
PSNH respectfully requests that the Commission consider the O’Neil Testimony, the Niehaus Testimony, the Chung Testimony, and the Goulding Testimony that accompany this Petition.

VI. CONCLUSION

PSNH respectfully requests the Commission adopt, as part of the Finance Order, the Transaction Description, the Findings, and the Orders and Approvals, all of which are necessary for PSNH to successfully implement the securitization proposed under the 2015 Settlement Agreement and to achieve the rate reduction required thereby.

Respectfully submitted this 15th day of June, 2017 and updated the 13th day of November, 2017.

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



By: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on this date I caused this updated petition to be served on parties listed on the Commission's service list for this docket.

November 13, 2017



Robert A. Bersak