

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: July 10, 2018

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Rich Chagnon
Utility Analyst – Electric Division

TZF

SUBJECT: DE 18-097, Joint Petition to Alter their Franchise Areas in Bow

TO: Commissioners
Debra Howland, Executive Director

CC: Tom Frantz, Director, Electric Division
Amanda Noonan, Director, Consumer Services and External Affairs
Les Stachow, Assistant Director, Electric Division
Suzanne Amidon, Staff Attorney

Summary

On June 19, 2018, Eversource Energy (Eversource) and Unitil Energy Systems (Unitil) filed a joint petition with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in which they requested the Commission issue an order approving a change in the franchise areas served by the two utilities in the town of Bow so as to accommodate the request to have Eversource provide electric service to the Chadwick residence off Jacqueline Dr. Ext.

Staff has reviewed the petition and recommends that the Commission grant the joint petition by Eversource and Unitil to alter the franchise territory in Bow to allow Eversource to provide service to this lot, located at 17 Jacqueline Dr. Ext. in Bow, with parcel ID of 17-3-24 (Site) owned by the Chadwick family. Staff also recommends that the Commission grant such approval without hearing as all parties are in agreement.

Background

On June 19, 2018, Eversource and Unitil filed a joint petition with the Commission in which they requested the Commission issue an order approving a change in the franchise areas served by the two utilities in the town of Bow so as to accommodate the request to have Eversource provide electric service to the Site.

The petition states that the public interest would be served by the amendment of their respective franchise areas in the area of Bow so as to permit Eversource to provide service to this Site. The requested relief is authorized under RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26.

Eversource and Unitil each serve portions of Bow. The customer, Timothy Chadwick, is seeking to construct a new residence at the Site, which is within Unitil's service territory. The Site rests on the town line in Bow with no direct access from any Bow roads. Access to the Site comes from a driveway off Jacqueline Dr. in Dunbarton, which is in Eversource's service territory.

Eversource's existing distribution facilities are located substantially closer to the Site and accessibility is considerably less restricted for Eversource. Each of the parties recognizes that, due to the specific physical location of the Site, the extension of electric utility distribution services to the Site from Eversource's nearby facilities along Jacqueline Dr. is substantially less costly than the construction that would be required to bring service to the Site from Unitil's existing facilities.

Eversource and Unitil agree to adjust their respective franchise areas in Bow to accommodate the request to place the Site within Eversource's franchise area, without otherwise altering the border between their respective franchise areas in Bow.

Eversource and Unitil understand that the customer agrees with this arrangement.

Staff has reviewed the petition and concludes that amending the franchise line to connect the Site to Eversource's facilities is substantially less costly than other available options and is otherwise reasonable and appropriate.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission grant the joint petition by Eversource and Unitil to alter the franchise territory in Bow to allow Eversource to provide service to this Site owned by the Chadwick family. As authorized in RSA 374:26, the Commission shall grant such permission to alter a franchise territory when it is in the public good to do so.

Staff also recommends that the Commission grant such approval without hearing as all parties are in agreement. As authorized in RSA 374:26, when all parties agree, the Commission may grant the permission request without a hearing.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:**

DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429

- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.**
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.**