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Debra Howland  
Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: Docket No. DE 19-057  
Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy  
Notice of Intent to File Rate Schedules

Request to Modify Filing Date – Condition Assessment

Dear Director Howland:

On December 15, 2020 the Commission issued Order No. 26,433 approving an October 9, 2020 Settlement Agreement (“Settlement”) in the above-captioned proceeding relating to the rate case filing of Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “PSNH”). Relevant to this filing, Section 11.1 of the Settlement provides that Eversource would “hire an engineering firm to perform a condition assessment of the PSNH distribution infrastructure, including substations, to provide recommendations related to the Company’s short and long-term system needs consistent with the requirements of least-cost integrated resource planning.” Section 11.5 of the Settlement states that the results of the assessment will be submitted by March 31, 2021 as supplemental testimony in the docket for Eversource’s 2020 least-cost integrated resource plan filing, Docket No. DE 20-161.

Upon receiving the Commission’s Order approving the settlement, Eversource worked expeditiously to issue a request for proposals (“RFP”) to qualified firms to conduct the required assessments. Following necessary internal reviews, Eversource issued its RFP on January 13, 2021, fewer than 30 days after the order was issued. A pre-bid meeting with potential bidders was conducted on January 15 and bids were received on January 22, 2021. Some of the firms who received the RFP notified Eversource that they would not bid because they would not have sufficient time to complete the required assessment by March 31. Of the firms that did respond, some noted that they could only complete the assessment by March 31, 2021 if the award was made immediately and if there were no delays during the process. Other responders stated that they could complete the work, but that they would not be able to complete the assessment by March 31, 2021.

In light of the information received from these firms about the timing for the work involved, Eversource is hereby requesting that the Commission modify Order No. 26,433, and by extension the Settlement, to allow for the submission of the results of the assessment by no later than May 31, 2021. Eversource is not seeking to curtail the assessment or to eliminate the requirement, only to extend the deadline to file the results. Extending the time for submitting the

results will allow sufficient time for the completion of the assessment and will allow Eversource to avoid unnecessarily excluding certain bidders from the process.

Eversource has communicated this issue to the settling parties and reports that as of the date of this filing Clean Energy NH, ChargePoint, and Wal-Mart have responded that they assent to the extension of the deadline as requested. Eversource has not heard back from the other parties as of the submission of this request, but understands that the Commission Staff does not oppose the request. Eversource requests that the Commission approve this request by Order *nisi*, or by such other process as it deems appropriate.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Very truly yours,



Matthew J. Fossum  
Senior Regulatory Counsel

CC: Service List