

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

Docket No. DE 19-057

JOINT MOTION TO CANCEL CERTAIN HEARING DATES

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”), the Commission Staff and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (“OCA”) hereby jointly move the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to cancel certain of the hearing days scheduled for this proceeding. In support of this motion, Eversource, the Staff, and the OCA state as follows:

On April 26, 2019, Eversource filed its petition for a temporary increase of \$33 million in distribution revenue and on May 28, Eversource filed a Notice of Intent to File Permanent Rate Schedules, along with supporting testimony and related exhibits and attachments. As a result of the intervening COVID-19 pandemic and the need for parties to work remotely, Staff filed a letter on March 19, 2020, to postpone the technical sessions scheduled for March 25 and 26 to the days previously reserved for hearing in mid-April. The Commission approved that revision by secretarial letter dated March 20.

On March 24, Staff filed a letter with the Commission regarding an agreement reached by Eversource, Staff, and the OCA to extend the procedural schedule by three months, and on April 24, 2020, the Governor issued an executive order – Exhibit D to Executive Order #29 – that extended the Commission’s ability to suspend rate schedules by six months, from 12 to 18 months. *See* RSA 378:6, I(a). That order extended the timeframe for this matter into November, 2020.

On June 19, 2020, the Staff filed a proposed schedule for hearings in this proceeding, which the Commission approved by a secretarial letter of July 7, 2020. That hearing schedule called for 20 days of hearings beginning on August 19 and extending through October, 2020.

In recent weeks, Staff, the OCA and the Company have engaged in discussions for the purpose of determining whether a settlement can be reached in this matter. The discussions have been productive, and these parties have reached a potential agreement in principle. As these parties continue to pursue and finalize a settlement, they cannot do so and simultaneously prepare for hearings starting on August 19. Further, additional time is needed to properly engage with all parties on the potential settlement.

Accordingly, to allow settlement discussions to conclude and an agreement to be finalized for submittal to the Commission, Eversource, Staff, and the OCA hereby jointly request that the Commission change the current procedural schedule by cancelling the hearings scheduled for August 19, 20 and 21, as well as September 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 16. The parties anticipate that those dates will not be required.

WHEREFORE, Eversource, the Staff and the OCA request that the Commission grant this motion and amend the procedural schedule as provided in this motion.

NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION STAFF

By: /s/ Suzanne Amidon
Suzanne Amidon, Esq.
Staff Attorney

Dated: August 13, 2020

NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

By: /s/ D. Maurice Kreis
D. Maurice Kreis, Esq.
Consumer Advocate

Dated: August 13, 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY



By:
Matthew Fossum, Esq.
Senior Regulatory Counsel

Dated: August 13, 2020

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the date written below, I caused the attached to be served pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.11.



Matthew J. Fossum

August 13, 2020