

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

MOTION FOR RECOVERY OF RATE CASE EXPENSES

Pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1905.02, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”), hereby requests that the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) allow recovery of certain rate case expenses incurred during and in support of Docket No. DE 19-057. By this request, Eversource is requesting recovery of the expenses incurred on its own behalf, as well as those incurred by the Commission Staff and the Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”). In support of this motion, Eversource states as follows:

1. On March 22, 2019, Eversource filed with the Commission a Notice of Intent to File Rate Schedules pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 1604.05 pertaining to a request for temporary rates. On April 26, 2019, the Company filed with the Commission proposed tariffs and rate schedules, testimony, attachments and other information supporting that request as well as a Notice of Intent to File Rate Schedules pertaining to its request for permanent rates. On May 28, 2019, the Company submitted its permanent rate filing.

2. Following discovery and a technical session, on June 13, 2019, Eversource filed a settlement agreement on temporary rates and on June 27, 2019, the Commission issued Order No. 26,265 approving that settlement agreement.

3. On June 28, 2019, the Commission approved an initial procedural schedule for adjudication of the Company’s permanent rate request that anticipated Commission order by

May 20, 2020. On March 24, 2020, the Staff filed a letter in the docket describing the status of the matter and the agreement of the Company to a three-month extension of the procedural schedule to account for the state of emergency declared by Governor Sununu on March 13, 2020, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 24, 2020, Governor Sununu issued Exhibit D to Executive Order #29, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, extending the Commission's authority to suspend rate schedules by six months, from 12 to 18 months. During this extension the Commission suspended PSNH's permanent rate schedule for an additional 6 months and directed Eversource to file supplemental testimony.

4. In the weeks prior to and following the Commission's order extending the suspension period, the Company, Staff and OCA engaged in settlement discussions, which were subsequently expanded to include additional intervenors. Based upon these discussions, a comprehensive settlement was reached between all parties to the docket and hearings on that settlement were held on October 26, 27 and 29, 2020. On December 15, 2020, the Commission issued Order No. 25,433 approving the settlement. Notably, for purposes of this motion, the settled revenue requirement had contained an amount attributable to the recovery of rate case expenses, but the Commission ordered those expenses removed from the settled revenue requirement pending further review. By this motion, Eversource now requests that the Commission undertake the relevant review and approve the recovery of rate case expenses incurred in this extended rate case proceeding.

5. As described and shown in the attached materials, Eversource engaged numerous experts and specialists to support this rate case and continued to rely upon the work of those experts through the extended period of this proceeding. Each of the expenses incurred for these experts qualify as allowed expenses under Puc 1906.01. Consistent with Puc 1905.01,

Eversource provided an initial estimate with rate case expenses when the case was filed and updated those expenses during the pendency of the case. Accordingly, the Commission has had the benefit of up-to-date information on the service providers and the level of expenses throughout the case.

6. Included in the attached are the materials required by Puc 1905.03 including information on the vendors, their invoices, descriptions of the services, the relevant contracts, and other supporting materials. As required by Puc 1905.04, for each of the providers engaged by Eversource, a competitive bid process was used and resulted in services provided in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Further, included with this request is a motion for confidential treatment pertaining to the rate information of the various service providers intended to protect their competitive interests in the services they provide, as well as to protect certain banking and account information included in the materials of those experts.

7. In addition to the expenses incurred on its own behalf, as noted above, Eversource likewise seeks recovery of the expenses incurred by the Staff and OCA. Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 365:37, II, RSA 365:38-a, and RSA 363:28, III, the Commission is empowered to assess certain costs of the Staff and the OCA to Eversource and Eversource is entitled to recovery of those costs. Accordingly, Eversource is requesting that the Commission establish a method for recovery of those costs through this same review. Understanding that the expenses of the Staff and OCA were paid as directed, Eversource has included only summary information of those expenses here, rather than all of their invoices and supporting documentation.

WHEREFORE, Eversource, requests that the Commission undertake the review contemplated by the CHAPTER Puc 1900 rules and determine the final amount of, and method of recovery for, rate case expenses in this proceeding.

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



By: _____

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Dated: January 15, 2021

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

January 15, 2021