

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Eversource Energy

**RECOVERY MECHANISM AND RATE TREATMENT  
FOR NET METERING AND GROUP HOST COSTS**

Docket No. DE 20-136

**Settlement Agreement**

This Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into as of the date written below between Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”), Clean Energy New Hampshire (“CENH”), the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission (“Staff”), and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (“OCA”), collectively referred to as the “Settling Parties.” This Agreement is intended to resolve all of the issues in this proceeding.

**I. Background**

In Docket No. DE 20-095 concerning Eversource’s Stranded Cost Recovery Charge (“SCRC”) rate for effect on August 1, 2020, Eversource proposed including certain costs relating to net metering and net metered group hosts in the SCRC rate calculation. In Order No. 26,387 (July 31, 2020), the Commission rejected Eversource’s proposal, finding that the issue had not been sufficiently developed either factually or legally. Order No. 26,387 also stated that the Commission would “open a new docket forthwith to determine the appropriate recovery mechanism and rate treatment for Eversource’s net metering costs and group host costs.” Order No. 26,387 at 6. The analysis and review described by the Commission in that order has been undertaken in the instant docket.

In this docket, the Staff, the OCA, and CENH evaluated the relevant net metering and group host costs, the method for their calculation, the accounting of the various related costs as recoverable expenses, and the appropriate cost recovery method and rate structure. As a result of the discussions and information exchanged between the Settling Parties, the Settling Parties have reached this Agreement on the recovery of those costs.

## **II. Agreement Terms**

**A.** The Settling Parties agree that Eversource shall continue to use the same calculation method for determining net metering and group host costs under the standard and alternative net metering tariffs as it has used previously. A high-level description of that method is contained in Attachment 1 to this Agreement.

**B.** The Settling Parties agree that Eversource shall recover net metering and group host costs calculated and accounted for as expenses as described in Attachment 1 within the SCRC rate rather than the Energy Service rate or another rate. Eversource shall include the net metering and group host costs in its next SCRC rate calculation proposed for effect on February 1, 2021. In addition, and specific to the SCRC rate proposed for effect on February 1, 2021, Eversource shall also include those costs which it was not able to recover as a result of the Commission's rejection of Eversource's proposal in Order No. 26,387.

**C.** The Settling Parties agree that the net metering and group host costs shall be included in the SCRC on an equal cents per kWh basis, and Eversource shall not use the differing allocation levels specified in the 2015 PSNH Restructuring and Rate Stabilization Agreement for those costs. Consistent with that allocation, to the extent that wholesale market revenue is received attributable to registration of net metered facilities with ISO New England as settlement-only generators or attributable to net metered

facilities through any other mechanisms or arrangements, such revenue shall also be included in the SCRC on an equal cents per kWh basis. In addition, any net metering and group host costs included as recoverable expenses in the SCRC shall be subject to a carrying charge interest rate based on the prime rate of interest and not the higher rate of interest contemplated under the 2015 PSNH Restructuring and Rate Stabilization Agreement. An illustrative calculation demonstrating how net metering and group host cost recovery would be included in the SCRC is included as Attachment 2 to this Agreement.

**D.** This Agreement is expressly conditioned upon the Commission's acceptance of all of its provisions without change or condition. If such acceptance is not granted, then this Agreement shall be deemed to be null and void and without effect, and shall not constitute any part of the record in this proceeding nor be used for any other purpose. The Settling Parties agree to support approval of this Agreement before the Commission, and shall not oppose this Agreement before any regulatory agencies or courts before which this matter is brought.

The terms of this Agreement shall not be used as precedent in any future dockets or proceedings. Moreover, the Commission's acceptance of this Agreement shall not constitute continuing approval of or precedent regarding any particular issue in this proceeding, but such acceptance shall constitute a determination that the provisions set forth herein are just and reasonable. The discussions which have produced this Agreement have been conducted on the understanding that all offers of settlement and discussions relating thereto are and shall be confidential and privileged, shall be without prejudice to the position of any party or participant representing any such offer or

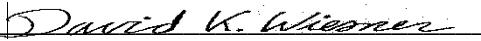
participating in any such discussion, and shall not be used in any manner in connection with this proceeding, any further proceeding, or otherwise.

*[signature page follows]*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Settling Parties to Docket No. DE 20-136 have caused this Agreement to be executed in their names by their duly authorized representatives.

**Staff of the Public Utilities Commission**

Date: 12/14/2020

By:   
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**Office of the Consumer Advocate**

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**Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
d/b/a Eversource Energy**

Date: 12/14/2020

By:   
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**Clean Energy New Hampshire**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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(603) 226-4732  
Email: Madeleine@cleanenergynh.org

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