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February 10, 2021

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

Re: Joint Petition to Approve Pole Asset Transfer
Docket No. DE 21-XXX

Dear Director Howland:

On behalf of Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”) and Consolidated Communications of Northern New England Company, LLC d/b/a Consolidated Communications (“Consolidated”) (together, the “Parties”), enclosed please find the Parties’ Joint Petition to Approve Pole Asset Transfer with respect to the transfer of certain utility pole assets from Consolidated to Eversource (the “Transaction”).¹ As described in more detail in the filing, the Parties request that the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) determine that the Transaction is in the public interest because the transfer of Consolidated’s ownership interests in utility poles to the sole ownership of Eversource will result in significant electric grid reliability and operational benefits, with minimal impacts on customer bills, and is otherwise consistent with New Hampshire law. The Parties also seek all other approvals and authorizations from the Commission as may be needed to complete the Transaction, including Eversource’s proposed cost recovery proposal related to the transaction.

To support the Commission’s approval of the Transaction and related cost recovery proposal, the Parties are submitting with the joint petition the following pre-filed direct testimony and related attachments:

- Direct Testimony of Lee G. Lajoie, Manager of System Reliability in New Hampshire for Eversource Energy Service Company. Mr. Lajoie’s testimony provides a summary of the Settlement and Pole Asset Purchase Agreement between the Parties (the “Agreement”), including the details surrounding the Transaction and the reliability and operational benefits resulting from the Transaction. A copy of the

¹ In accordance with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission’s Temporary Changes in Filing Requirements dated March 17, 2020, which suspends all rules requiring the filing of paper copies until further notice, the Parties are submitting this filing in electronic form only. The Parties have maintained the original paper version of the documents and will file the original documents when the suspension is lifted if so required.

Agreement is attached to Mr. Lajoie's testimony as Attachment LGL-1 CONFIDENTIAL.

- Direct Testimony of Douglas P. Horton, Vice President of Distribution Rates and Regulatory Requirements for Eversource Energy Service Company, and Erica L. Menard, Manager of New Hampshire Revenue Requirements for Eversource Energy Service Company. Mr. Horton and Ms. Menard's joint testimony summarizes the financial impacts of the Transaction, including the calculation of the estimated revenue requirement associated with Eversource's purchase of the utility poles, Eversource's cost recovery proposal with respect to the Transaction, and the estimated customer bill impacts resulting from the Transaction. A copy of the calculations for the revenue requirement supporting Eversource's purchase of Consolidated's ownership interests in the utility poles is attached to Mr. Horton and Ms. Menard's testimony as Attachment DPH/ELM-1 CONFIDENTIAL. In compliance with N. H. Code of Admin. Rules Puc 203.06 and Puc 1603.05, a copy of the proposed tariff changes that describe the adjustment to Eversource's Regulatory Reconciliation Adjustment mechanism is attached to Mr. Horton and Ms. Menard's testimony as Attachment DPH/ELM-2.

This filing also contains a Motion for Protective Order and Confidential Treatment pursuant to N. H. Code of Admin. Rules Puc 203.08 and RSA 91-A:5. The Parties seek protection from public disclosure of certain confidential, sensitive, and proprietary information contained in the joint petition, testimony of Mr. Lajoie and accompanying Attachment LGL-1 CONFIDENTIAL, and testimony of Mr. Horton and Ms. Menard and accompanying Attachment DPH/ELM-1 CONFIDENTIAL. Accordingly, the Parties are submitting the complete, unredacted version of the confidential materials in a confidential email, and are submitting in a separate email a redacted version of the materials for the public filing.

Please include the following individuals on the Commission's service list for this proceeding:

Matthew Fossum, matthew.fossum@eversource.com
Robert Humm, rhumm@keeganwerlin.com
Jameson Calitri, jcalitri@keeganwerlin.com
Lee Lajoie, lee.lajoie@eversource.com
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Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert J. Humm

Enclosures

cc: Office of Consumer Advocate