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November 15, 2021

Daniel C. Goldner, Chair
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: Docket No. DE 21-020
Joint Petition to Approve Pole Asset Transfer

Supplemental Testimony of Eversource

Dear Chair Goldner:

On February 10, 2021, 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, Joint Petitioners), filed a petition requesting that the Commission approve a transfer of interests in utility pole assets from Consolidated to Eversource pursuant to the terms of a Settlement and Pole Asset Purchase Agreement. Relevant to this filing, that petition also Eversource’s recovery of costs resulting from the transaction that were estimated to be higher than pole attachment fee revenues that Eversource would be entitled to collect, should the transaction be approved. The petition proposed that these costs be recovered through new and existing inputs to Eversource’s Regulatory Reconciliation Adjustment (“RRA”) mechanism, which was established through the settlement agreement in Docket No. DE 19-057 and approved in Order No. 26,433 (December 23, 2020).

On August 4, 2021, the Office of the Consumer Advocate (“OCA”) moved to dismiss the petition on the grounds that the cost recovery sought by Eversource was precluded by the settlement in Docket No. DE 19-057 and that pursuant to the contentions of Eversource, without cost recovery, the transaction could not proceed. On August 16, Eversource objected to that motion and on August 19, the OCA responded to Eversource’s objection.

On October 22, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 26,534 in this proceeding. In that Order, the Commission agreed that Eversource was precluded from obtaining cost recovery for the capital costs of the transaction through the RRA, but that recovery of other costs may be allowed. In light of these conclusions the Commission ordered Eversource “to file a proposed cost recovery mechanism that is not precluded by the Settlement Agreement and that is acceptable to it by November 15, 2021.” Order No. 26,534 at 9.

Consistent with the Commission’s directive, Eversource includes for filing the Supplemental Joint Testimony of Douglas P. Horton and Erica L. Menard in this proceeding. In this testimony, Eversource proposed a revised cost recovery method which is not dependent upon

the RRA and which, in Eversource's assessment is not precluded by the settlement in Docket No. DE 19-057.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Fossum', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matthew J. Fossum
Senior Regulatory Counsel

Enclosures

CC: Service List