

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
before the
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

2021 Regulatory Reconciliation Adjustment Mechanism Rate

Docket No. DE 21-XXX

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A EVERSOURCE
ENERGY'S PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGE IN REGULATORY
RECONCILIATION ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM RATE

Pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 202.01 and Puc 203.06, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”) petitions the Commission to establish a revised Regulatory Reconciliation Adjustment Mechanism (“RRA”) rate for effect on August 1, 2021. In support of this Petition, 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 in Docket No. DE 19-057. 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 Eversource'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 (the "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.

5. The Settlement established the RRA as a means for the Company to request recovery or refund of a limited set of costs identified specifically in the Settlement. The RRA is a component of the Company's distribution rate and, pursuant to the Settlement, is adjusted annually to account for any over or under recoveries occurring in prior year(s). Under the Settlement, the identified classes of costs included in the RRA are: (1) Regulatory Commission annual assessments and consultants hired or retained by the Commission and Office of Consumer Advocate; (2) calendar year over- or under-collections from the Company's Vegetation Management Program ("VMP"); (3) Property tax expenses, as compared to the

amount in base rates; (4) Lost-base distribution revenues associated with net metering; and (5) Storm cost amortization final reconciliation and annual reconciliation.

6. As described in Section 9.3 of the Settlement, by March 1 of each year the Company is to submit a filing containing reports on the Company's reliability statistics and vegetation management activities, and request the Commission open a new docket to consider the filing and other RRA issues. Thereafter, on or by May 1 of each year, the Company is to update its RRA filing with information pertaining to all other components of the RRA filing, along with supporting testimony and exhibits for rates effective August 1 of that year.

7. By this Petition, Eversource is providing the required reports on its reliability statistics and vegetation management activities consistent with the Settlement. Included with this petition are the testimony and supporting information of Lee G. Lajoie, the Company's Manager of System Resiliency, and Robert D. Allen, the Company's Manager of Vegetation Management, providing the relevant information and explanations of the Company's reliability performance and VMP activities in calendar year 2020.

8. The remaining components of the RRA shall be filed on or by May 1, 2021 consistent with the Settlement. Eversource requests that the Commission undertake its review as necessary and appropriate to assure that the review will be complete in time for adjusted rates to be effective as of August 1 and provided in the Settlement.

WHEREFORE, Eversource's respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Open a docket to review and approve Eversource's proposed RRA rate change;
- B. Commence any required review of the components of the RRA to assure approval for rates effective August 1, 2021; and
- C. Grant such further relief as is just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,
Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
By Its Attorney



Dated: March 1, 2021

By: _____

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