

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-029

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

2021 Regulatory Reconciliation Adjustment

ORDER OF NOTICE

In Order No. 26,433, issued on December 15, 2020 in Docket No. DE 19-057, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy's (Eversource or the Company) last rate proceeding, the Commission approved a settlement agreement (Settlement Agreement), which authorized Eversource to implement an annual regulatory reconciliation adjustment (RRA) mechanism. The RRA mechanism would permit Eversource to recover or refund certain variable costs beyond those recovered through base distribution rates, including: regulatory commission annual assessments and special assessments for consultants; vegetation management (VM) program under- or over-collections; property tax expenses; lost-base distribution revenues associated with net metering; and storm cost amortization final reconciliations and annual reconciliations updated to reflect the actual cost of long-term debt.

On March 1, 2021, Eversource filed a petition requesting the Commission to approve Eversource's proposed RRA rate for effect on August 1, 2021. In support of its petition, Eversource filed the direct testimony of Lee G. Lajoie, the Company's Manager of System Resiliency, and Robert D. Allen, the Company's Manager of Vegetation Management, and related attachments, including the reports on reliability statistics and VM activities, as required by Section 9 of the Settlement Agreement. Eversource filed additional direct testimony from Erica L. Menard, the Company's Manager of New Hampshire Revenue Requirements, and

Jennifer A. Ullram, the Company's Manager of Rates, and related attachments, on April 30, 2021 in support of its proposed RRA rate. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at

<https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2021/21-029.html>.

According to the testimony filed, Eversource has calculated the average RRA rate to be a credit of 0.013 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). The RRA rate proposed as part of this first reconciliation would be based on costs incurred over varying time periods, but these costs will be reconciled on a calendar year basis going forward. Eversource states that implementation of the proposed RRA rate, when incorporated with previously ordered rate adjustments,¹ would result in an decrease in the monthly bill of the average residential customer using 650 kWh per month of \$0.12, as of August 1, 2021, when compared to February 1, 2021.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether Eversource's annual regulatory reconciliation adjustment filing complies with the terms of the Settlement Agreement approved by Order No. 26,433; whether Eversource appropriately calculated the proposed RRA rate; and whether implementation of the proposed RRA rate is likely to result in just and reasonable rates, as required by RSA 374:2, and RSA 378:5 and :7. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

¹ Previously ordered rate adjustments include the following: the permanent distribution rates approved by Order No. 26,433 (December 15, 2020) in Docket No. DE 19-057; the 2019 step adjustment revenue requirement approved by Order No. 26,439 (December 23, 2020) in Docket No. DE 19-057; the default energy service rate reflecting rate changes approved by Order No. 26,438 (December 17, 2020) in Docket No. DE 20-054, effective February 1, 2021; the Stranded Cost Recovery Charge rate reflecting rate changes approved by Order No. 26,451 (January 29, 2021) in Docket No. DE 20-095, effective February 1, 2021; the transmission cost adjustment mechanism rate reflecting rate changes approved by Order No. 26,386 (July 31, 2020) in Docket No. DE 20-085, effective August 1, 2020; and the System Benefits Charge rate approved by Order No. 26,323 (December 31, 2019) in Docket No. DE 17-136, effective January 1, 2020.

With the expiration of the declared State of Emergency, the Commission must now comply with all requirements of RSA chapter 91-A, including the requirement that a quorum of a public body must be physically present at the location specified as the location of the public meeting in the meeting notice. The Commission is aware that not all parties, including regulated utilities, have returned to full in-person work environments. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, the Commission intends to provide a hybrid approach to hearings to accommodate those who are remote and those who are physically present. A quorum of commissioners will be physically present within a hearing room for all Commission hearings beginning June 14, 2021. In order to facilitate the hybrid approach, all parties participating in the hearing room will continue to participate on the web-enabled platform. Parties and the public may continue to participate in hearings remotely using the Commission's web-enabled platform.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a hearing at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on July 16, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Commissioners will be present in the hearing room and will use a web-enabled platform to conduct the hearing. Members of the public who wish to access the hearing may do so [by clicking here](#). **If you have any difficulty obtaining access to this remote event, please notify the Commission by calling (603) 271-2431 as soon as possible.** Parties and members of the public wishing to attend the hearing in person are encouraged to register in advance, on or before July 13, 2021, by calling (603) 271-2431. Parties will be provided with additional instructions prior to the hearing; and it is

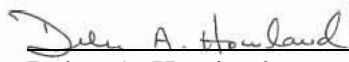
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice

on its website no later than one business day after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 13, 2021. In addition, the Executive Director shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than one business day after the date of issue; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to Eversource and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before July 13, 2021, such petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17. Pursuant to the secretarial letter issued on March 17, 2020, which is posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Secretarial%20Letters/20200317-SecLtr-Temp-Changes-in-Filing-Requirements.pdf>, any party seeking to intervene may elect to submit this filing in electronic form; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before July 16, 2021.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-eighth day of June, 2021.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 21-029

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Email Addresses

ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov
richard.chagnon@puc.nh.gov
kurt.demmer@puc.nh.gov
paul.dexter@puc.nh.gov
Stephen.Eckberg@puc.nh.gov
matthew.fossum@eversource.com
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov
elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov