

Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
Docket No. DE 21-029

Date Request Received: 06/04/2021

Date of Response: 06/18/2021

Request No. STAFF 2-005

Page 1 of 1

Request from: New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission Staff

Witness: Erica L. Menard

Request:

Reference ELM/JAU-2 page 5 of 5 (Bates 30). Please explain why the Company has included Invoice Amounts shown in lines 1 – 10 and line 12 totaling \$48,666 as these all have invoice dates prior to 1/1/2020 which is the start of the RRA period.

Response:

The Settlement Agreement in Docket No. DE 19-057 and approved in Order No. 26,433 (December 15, 2020) states that "Legal and consulting outside service charges related to Commission approved special assessments assessed by the Commission to the Company for the expenses of experts employed by the Commission, Staff, and OCA pursuant to the provisions of RSA 365:37, II, RSA 365:38-a, and RSA 363:28, III shall also be recovered through the RRA. The Settling Parties acknowledge that current base distribution rates do not include any costs associated with consultants hired or retained by the Commission, Staff, and OCA, and any costs incurred within the calendar year shall be included in the RRA for recovery in the year following the year in which they are incurred. To the extent any such costs are recovered through another rate or method, they shall not be recovered through the RRA."

In Docket No DE 17-160, Eversource filed for a distribution rate change to recover consultant costs for the 2016 through July 2017 time period. In Docket No. DE 18-177, Eversource proposed to recover in base rates the deferred 2018 OCA and NHPUC consultant expenses of \$51,399, however a base distribution rate change was not necessary at that time due to other offsetting adjustments included in that docket.

As described in testimony on Bates pages 11 and 12 in the April 30, 2021 filing, the first RRA reconciliation filing incorporates two calendar year periods for consultant costs. The \$48,666 of invoices relates to NHPUC and OCA consultant expenses for the time period of January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019. These costs were not included in base distribution rates since they were outside of the test year and they were not included in any recoupment calculations as part of the Docket No. DE 19-057 rate case. The 2019 consultant costs were included in the first RRA since there is no other mechanism to recover these costs.