

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-077

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

2021 Energy Service Solicitation

Order Regarding Scope of December 13, 2021 Hearing

O R D E R N O. 26,550

November 12, 2021

In this order, the Commission grants Eversource's motion to remove the issue of its recovery of approximately \$1.6 million in REC purchases from the scope of the hearing scheduled on December 13, 2021.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 15, 2021, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource or the Company) filed a proposed default energy service solicitation schedule for its large and small customer groups for rates beginning on August 1, 2021. The Commission issued an order of notice scheduling a hearing on Eversource's proposed default energy service solicitation on June 22, 2021. Eversource filed a petition for adjustment to its energy service rate, for effect on August 1, 2021, with supporting testimony and related attachments, on June 17, 2021.

Following the June 22 hearing, the Commission issued Order No. 26,491 (June 24, 2021), in which it approved the requested adjustment to Eversource's energy service rates for the August 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 time period. In Order No. 26,491, the Commission directed Eversource to work with Commission Staff (Staff) (now with the New Hampshire Department of Energy) to conduct a review of the

Company's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) compliance costs included in its RPS cost reconciliation. *Id.* at 6-7. The Commission ordered that any disputed recommended adjustments to RPS costs would be addressed as part of Eversource's December energy service filing. *Id.* at 7.

The New Hampshire Department of Energy (Energy) filed a recommendation on September 20, 2021, in which it recommended that the Commission disallow approximately \$1.6 million that Eversource paid for Class III renewable energy certificates (RECs) in July 2020 in excess of the alternative compliance payment (ACP) rate. On October 4, 2021, Eversource filed a proposed default energy service schedule for service beginning on February 1, 2022 and requested a hearing in December 2021. On October 11, 2021, the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a letter of participation in this matter. The Commission scheduled a hearing on December 13, 2021 by procedural order dated October 14, 2021.

Eversource filed a motion on October 8, 2021 requesting the Commission to remove the issue of its recovery of approximately \$1.6 million in REC purchases from the scope of the December 13, 2021 hearing. Energy filed a response to Eversource's motion on October 14, 2021.

II. POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES

A. Eversource

Eversource argued in its motion that, given the complexity of the REC purchases in question and the potential ramifications for RPS compliance in general of the Commission's decision regarding whether the approximately \$1.6 million for REC purchases should be disallowed, the Commission should remove this issue from the scope of the December 13, 2021 hearing. It requested the Commission either to

schedule a separate hearing or to open a new adjudicative docket so that it could fully and adequately address this issue.

B. Department of Energy

Energy stated in its response to Eversource's motion that it did not object to the Commission addressing the issue separately from the Company's proposed default energy service rate adjustment, provided the Commission issued a decision regarding the recommended disallowance of the \$1.6 million for REC purchases in time for the disallowance to be implemented for energy service rates effective February 1, 2022.

C. Office of the Consumer Advocate

The OCA took no position on Eversource's motion to remove the issue of the recovery of \$1.6 million in REC purchases from the scope of the December 13, 2021 hearing.

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

Although they disagree regarding whether Eversource should be allowed to recover the nearly \$1.6 million it spent for RECs over the prevailing ACP rates, Eversource and Energy do not disagree about having this issue heard separately from the December 13, 2021 hearing. Based upon the representations of Eversource and Energy, the Commission finds that a separate hearing is advisable, so that the issue that has been raised in Energy's September 20, 2021 recommendation can be fully litigated.

Accordingly, the Commission grants Eversource's motion to remove the issue of recovery of the approximately \$1.6 million in REC purchases from the scope of the December 13, 2021 hearing. A separate hearing on this issue is scheduled on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 9:00 am. Three hours will be allotted for this hearing, which shall be conducted in accordance with the hearing guidelines issued on

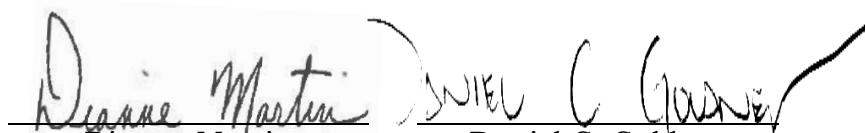
October 14, 2021. If additional time will be required, the parties are requested to notify the Commission within ten days from the date of this order.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Eversource's motion for removal of the issue of recovery of \$1.6 million in REC purchases and RPS compliance from the scope of the December 13, 2021 hearing is GRANTED, and Order No. 26,491 (June 24, 2021) is modified accordingly; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this issue will be addressed in a separate hearing scheduled on January 13, 2022.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twelfth day of November, 2021.



Dianne Martin
Chairwoman

Daniel C. Goldner
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-077

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