

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 20-170

**ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES
Electric Vehicle Time of Use Rates**

DE 21-078

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY
Petition for Electric Vehicle Make-Ready and Demand Charge Alternative
Proposals**

Order on Request to Transfer Proposals

ORDER NO. 26,517

September 9, 2021

In this order, the Commission denies Eversource Energy's request to transfer Electric Vehicle Make Ready and Demand Charge Alternative proposals from Docket DE 21-078 to Docket DE 20-170.

I. BACKGROUND

In Docket IR 20-004, the Commission issued Order 26,394 (August 18, 2020), requiring a new proceeding be opened to consider electric vehicle time of use (EV TOU) rate proposals. Docket DE 20-170 was opened for this purpose.

In Docket DE 19-057, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy's (Eversource) most recent full distribution rate case, the Commission issued Order No. 26,433 (December 15, 2020), approving a settlement agreement that, among other things, required Eversource to file a proposal for make-ready investments supporting electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in New Hampshire and a proposal for an alternative to demand charges for EV charging rates. These proposals were to be considered by the Commission in a new docket.

On April 15, 2021, consistent with the terms of the settlement agreement in Docket DE 19-057, Eversource filed a petition for approval of a Make-Ready EV Charging Infrastructure Program (Make Ready Program) proposal and a Demand Charge Alternative (DCA) proposal. The Commission opened Docket DE 21-078 for the consideration of those proposals. On August 10, 2021, the Commission issued an Order of Notice scheduling a prehearing conference in Docket DE 21-078 on August 25, 2021, which was held as scheduled.

On June 15, 2021, consistent with the procedural schedule in Docket DE 20-170, Eversource filed EV TOU rate proposals in that docket.

On August 11, 2021, Eversource filed a “Request to remove make-ready and demand charge alternative proposals from DE 21-078 to DE 20-170” (Request) in Dockets DE 20-170 and 21-078. In its Request, Eversource argued that the Make Ready Program and DCA proposals would be more appropriately and efficiently considered in Docket DE 20-170, while noting a “directive” in *Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.*, Order No. 26,486 (June 9, 2021). Eversource noted the assent of the “intervening” parties in Docket DE 20-170, while noting Energy’s concern that, if removed, the Make Ready Program would need to be considered in a separate phase of Docket DE 20-170, following the completion of the existing procedural schedule. Eversource’s Request was discussed at the prehearing conference held in Docket DE 21-078 on August 25. At the prehearing conference, Energy expressed concerns about accommodating both the Make Ready Program and DCA proposals within the remaining procedural schedule in Docket DE 20-170, stated that it would be unable to conduct adequate discovery on the Make Ready Program under the existing procedural schedule in Docket DE 20-170, and suggested that phasing Docket DE 20-170 would be necessary if the proposals were removed. Eversource indicated that the Make Ready Program and

DCA proposals were complementary and should be considered together, and stated that it would agree to a period of rolling discovery on the Make Ready Program to allay Energy's concerns. Energy also stated that the transfer would be inconsistent with the Commission's prior order in Docket DE 21-030.

The Request and related docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2020/20-170.html> and <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2021/21-078.html>, respectively.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

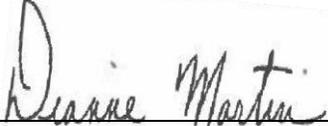
We have reviewed Eversource's Request and considered the arguments at the prehearing conference held in Docket DE 21-078 on August 25, 2021. We acknowledge Eversource's position that administrative efficiencies could be achieved by removing the proposals. We do not agree that overlaying Eversource's complementary proposals into Docket DE 20-170, which is on an expedited procedural schedule that Energy argues would restrict discovery opportunities related to the Make Ready Program, is likely to yield administrative or substantive benefits to either the overall evaluation of all electric distribution utilities' EV TOU proposals in Docket DE 20-170 or to Eversource's specific Make Ready Program or DCA proposals. The procedural schedule in Docket DE 20-170 is well underway and removing these proposals to that docket at this time is likely to cause delays in that docket. In addition, we agree with Energy that removing these proposals to Docket DE 20-170 is inconsistent with our decision in Order No. 26,486. A delay in Docket DE 20-170 would impact the Commission's ability to use the outcome of Docket DE 20-170 to inform the its decision in Docket DE 21-030 consistent with Order No. 26,486. The

Commission will similarly use the outcome of the investigation in IR 20-004 to inform the determination in this matter. As such, we deny Eversource's request and will evaluate its Make Ready Program or DCA proposals in Docket DE 21-078.

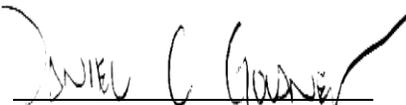
Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy's request to remove its Make-Ready EV Charging Infrastructure Program and Demand Charge Alternative from Docket DE 21-078 to Docket DE 20-170 is DENIED; and it is

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this ninth day of September, 2021.



Dianne Martin
Chairwoman



Daniel C. Goldner
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 20-170

Printed: 9/9/2021

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Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-078

Printed: 9/9/2021

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