

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Docket No. DE 21-XXX

PETITION FOR RECOVERY OF STORM EXPENSES

Pursuant to Puc 202.01(a) and Puc 203.06, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “the Company”) hereby petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for approval to recover certain storm-related expenses presently charged to the Company’s Major Storm Cost Reserve (“MSCR” or “Reserve”). More specifically, Eversource is requesting that the costs contained in this filing be audited so that the audited costs may be offset against the Reserve. In support of its Petition, Eversource says the following:

1. As part of the settlement regarding restructuring in Docket No. DE 99-099 Eversource established the MSCR for the purpose of covering the incremental costs associated with severe weather events. Under the MSCR, Eversource recovers from customers through its distribution rates a specified annual amount to be used in the event a Major Storm occurs.¹ Eversource simultaneously records a liability into its MSCR equal to the amount that it recovers from customers so that the recovery does not result in earnings accruing to Eversource. Costs incurred by Eversource for restoration of service during a weather event qualifying as a Major Storm are charged to the MSCR. The level of funding for the MSCR has varied over time, but has been at a level of \$12 million annually since 2013. Following Order No. 25,465 (February 26, 2013) in Docket No. DE

¹ A Major Storm is defined as an event that results in either: a) 10% or more of Eversource’s retail customers being without power in conjunction with more than 200 reported troubles; or b) more than 300 reported troubles during the event. *See* Order No. 25,465 at 1.

12-320 if certain defined criteria are met, Eversource may also charge specified pre-staging costs to the MSCR for events that do not ultimately rise to the level of a Major Storm.²

2. By this petition, and consistent with the Commission's March 26, 2019 secretarial letter in Docket No. DE 18-058, and the settlement agreement in Docket No. DE 19-057, Eversource seeks review of the costs of nine storm and pre-staging events that occurred from October 2019 through May 2020: (1) October 16, 2019 Major Storm; (2) October 31, 2019 Major Storm; (3) December 2, 2019 Pre-Staging event; (4) December 30, 2019 Pre-Staging event; (5) February 7, 2020 Major Storm; (6) February 26, 2020 Pre-Staging event; (7) March 23, 2020 Major Storm; (8) April 13, 2020 Pre-Staging event; (9) May 15, 2020 Pre-Staging event. Eversource is requesting that the Commission audit the costs of these events so that the recovery of those costs be addressed through the MSCR. Eversource has, and will provide, all information and documentation necessary to facilitate the Commission's audit of these nine events. Furthermore, consistent with the Commission's secretarial letter, Eversource notes that there was additional storm activity in the months of August through December 2020, but the costs of those activities are not final. Excluded from this filing are the August 4, 2020 Major Storm, December 5, 2020 Major Storm, and the December 16, 2020 Pre-Staging event, and their costs will be included in the next filing when they are finalized, consistent with the requirements of the settlement in Docket No. DE 19-057.

3. With this petition, Eversource includes the joint testimony of Erica L. Menard and Dean C. Desautels to explain the costs of the events described above, describe the function of the Reserve, to demonstrate Eversource's reasonable and appropriate accounting for the costs to be charged to the Reserve, and to describe each storm event and Eversource's response to each event.

4. Of note, Eversource does not seek any adjustment to its rates to account for the above. Rather, Eversource requests only that the Commission review the costs for

² See the Testimony of David L. Bickford in Docket No. DE 12-320 for a description of the types of pre-staging costs permitted to be charged to the MSCR.

recovery through the MSCR, which was specifically designed to allow for the recovery of these costs.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission grant this petition and request, and order such further relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of April, 2021.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY**



By: _____

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