



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

September 17, 2021

Dianne Martin, Chairwoman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301-2429

**Re: DE 21-119 Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
Proposed Tariff Amendments for Residential Time-of-Day Rate
Request to Amend Procedural Schedule**

Dear Chairwoman Martin:

On August 25, 2021, representatives of Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, (Eversource), the Department of Environmental Services, Clean Energy New Hampshire, and the Department of Energy Regulatory Support Division (Energy) met in technical session to discuss preliminary issues relevant to this proceeding, including the development of a procedural schedule for the docket.

On August 30, 2021, Energy filed a proposed procedural schedule on behalf of the technical session participants. That schedule would have allowed for three rounds of discovery prior to the filing of intervenor testimony, with the first round served to Eversource on August 31. Also on August 30, the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a reply stating disagreement with the proposed procedural schedule. The OCA's primary disagreement with the schedule related to the deadline for the first round of discovery, which would occur prior to the arrival of their new Director of Rates and Market Policy. In response to the OCA's concern, the Commission approved a revised procedural schedule which extended all of the dates in the proposed procedural schedule by approximately two weeks.

The revised schedule assigns actions to several dates of concern to one or more of the parties due to conflicts, deadline overlaps, or near overlaps.¹ For example, the November 8 technical session scheduled by the Commission in DE 21-119 conflicts with a testimony deadline the Commission assigned last week in DE 21-020; Set 2 requests in DE 21-119 are due the day before testimony is due in DE 20-170; Set 3 Responses are due from Eversource on December 29, during a week when many

¹ Although the parties take no position at this time regarding who should develop an initial draft procedural schedule for the input of the parties to a proceeding, care should be taken during development of any schedule to avoid overlapping deadlines across proceedings and known conflicts the primary analysts and attorneys assigned to a proceeding may have. Not considering such conflicts may result in otherwise unnecessary procedural schedule amendment requests, objections, and determinations necessarily resolving such pleadings.

employees plan vacation; and the February 4 technical session in DE 21-119 conflicts with a meeting of the EM&V Working Group. Assignment of deadline to these dates would limit the participation of those parties who take part in pre-hearing docket processes across proceedings, primarily, Energy and the OCA.

In light of the concerns above, Energy, on behalf of the parties to the proceeding, including the OCA, propose the following amendment of the procedural schedule. Our proposed procedural schedule adopts the schedule proposed on August 30 with two exceptions: (1) the hearing date provided by the Commission has been adopted; and (2) in order to accommodate the OCA’s concerns related to the timeline for the first set of requests, this schedule provides a fourth opportunity for discovery prior to testimony, which would be served on January 28, 2022.

The parties have agreed to recommend the following amended procedural schedule to the Commission:

Action or Event	Date or Deadline
Set 1 Data Requests to Eversource	August 31, 2021
Eversource Responses to Set 1 Data Requests	September 14, 2021
Set 2 Data Requests to Eversource	September 28, 2021
Eversource Responses to Set 2 Data Requests	October 12, 2021
Technical Session	October 25, 2021 1 p.m.
Set 3 Data Requests to Eversource	December 1, 2021
Eversource Responses to Set 3 Data Requests	December 15, 2021
Technical Session	January 21, 2022
Set 4 Data Requests to Eversource	January 28, 2022
Eversource Responses to Set 4 Data Requests	February 11, 2022
Division/OCA/Intervenor Testimony	March 4, 2022
Data Requests to Division/OCA/Intervenors	March 18, 2022
Division/OCA/Intervenor Responses to Data Requests	April 1, 2022
Technical Session/Settlement Conference	April 4, 2022
Hearing Date	May 3, 2022 at 9 a.m.

Energy, on behalf of the technical session participants, respectfully requests that the Commission approve the proposed amended procedural schedule for this proceeding.

I certify that a copy of this letter will be served electronically on the parties on the service list at the same time it is filed with the Commission.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Brian D. Buckley*

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