

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 22-077

**NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND PUBLIC SERVICE
COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Joint Petition to Alter Franchise Area in the Towns of in Croydon and Sunapee

Order Granting Joint Petition

ORDER NO. 26,778

February 24, 2023

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

On November 14, 2022, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) (together, Joint Petitioners) filed a joint petition to modify their respective franchise areas in the towns of Croydon and Sunapee, New Hampshire. The petition requested permission to transfer two lots of real property in Croydon, New Hampshire from Eversource's service territory to NHEC's franchise. In support of their petition, the Joint Petitioners filed attachments showing the location of the properties and the proposed changes to their respective franchise maps.

On December 27, 2022, the Commission issued a notice commencing an adjudicative proceeding in this matter, setting a date for a prehearing conference, establishing an intervention deadline, and requesting analysis from the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE). This notice was published on the Commission's website, each of the Joint Petitioners' websites, and mailed by Eversource to the owners of record of both potentially impacted lots of real property.

On February 13, 2023, the DOE filed the technical statement of Heidi W. Lemay and Stephen R. Eckberg, including attachments.

The joint petition, along with all subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, is posted at: <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2022/22-077.html>.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

Pursuant to RSA 374:26, the Commission shall grant a franchise to provide utility service when it finds that such action would be in the public good. RSA 374:26 permits the Commission to make a public good finding without a hearing when all interested parties are in agreement.

The Commission finds that the following facts are supported by the pleadings, technical statement, and filed discovery: Lots 18-673 and 18-674 in Croydon, New Hampshire (the lots) have street frontage on Melody Lane and are presently within Eversource's franchise area. For Eversource to extend service to the lots, Eversource would need to set at least three new utility poles. A portion of the costs for Eversource to extend service to the lots would be paid by a customer contribution¹.

NHEC's franchise area includes portions of the Town of Sunapee across Melody Lane from the lots. NHEC presently maintains distribution facilities on Melody Lane in close proximity to the lots. No customer contribution would be required if NHEC were to provide service to the lots.

The costs and resources needed to provide electric service to the lots is less for NHEC than Eversource. The intervention deadline having passed, all parties to this matter agree to the franchise boundary change and that the public good standard is met.

¹ Based upon the estimated cost of the line extension to Lot 18-673 of \$13,307, the customer's contribution would be approximately 31 percent. See Technical Statement of Heidi W. Lemay and Stephen R. Eckberg New Hampshire Department of Energy Division of Regulatory Support at 2.

We find granting the joint petition meets the public good standard. Moving the lots from Eversource's service territory to NHEC's service territory will allow these lots to receive new service cost effectively. We grant the joint petition without hearing pursuant to RSA 374:26. We direct Eversource and NHEC to file updated franchise maps noting the approved changes.


Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

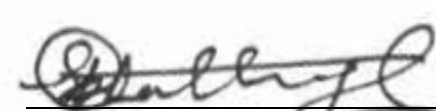
ORDERED, that the Joint Petition to Alter Franchise Area in the Towns of in Croydon and Sunapee, is hereby GRANTED, and it is

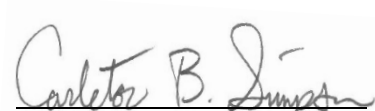
FURTHER ORDERED, that Eversource and NHEC shall file updated franchise maps with the Commission, in accordance with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603, noting the approved change, annotated with this order and the effective date herein, within 30 days of the effective date of this order; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the prehearing conference scheduled for March 21, 2023, is CANCELLED.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-fourth day of February 2023.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner


Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-077

Printed: 2/24/2023

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