

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 23-019

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

Line Extension Rate Filing

Order *Nisi* Approving Updated Line Extension Rates

ORDER NO. 26,792

March 29, 2023

This order approves an update to line extension rates for Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy. Per foot costs to be assessed under the terms of the Eversource tariff are \$30.69 for overhead single phase line extensions, and \$20.32 for single phase underground line extensions. These represent increases from current rates, and new rates are to be effective as of May 1, 2023.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On February 28, 2023, the petitioner, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed its annual update to the line-extension charges made pursuant to the terms of the policy establish and delineated in Order No. 25,046 (November 20, 2009). On March 24, 2023, Eversource updated its costs and proposed line extension charges. The Department of Energy (DOE) filed an appearance on March 8, 2023, and on March 24, 2023, DOE filed its recommendation concerning the updated line extension charges. No other parties requested intervention in this docket. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than 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/2023/23-019.html>

II. POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES

A. Eversource

In its February 28, 2023, filing Eversource proposed per foot rates of \$20.89 for single phase underground line extensions and \$31.10 for single phase overhead line extensions. Following discussions with DOE Eversource filed updated proposed rates. Eversource and the DOE agreed that those adjustment are consistent with the terms of the Eversource tariff and the Commission-approved methodology for calculating the line extension rates. The updated technical statement of George J. Knowles reports the average cost per foot calculations applicable to the period April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. The effect of this updated filing is a reduction of the underground single phase rate to \$20.32 per foot from the rate of \$20.89 per foot as originally filed and a reduction of the overhead single phase rate to \$30.69 per foot from the rate of \$31.10 per foot as originally filed.

B. DOE

The DOE filed a technical statement on March 24, 2023, and affirmed that the calculations in the revised filing submitted by Eversource on March 24, 2023, are consistent with the settlement approved by Order No. 25,046 (November 20, 2009) and Order No. 25,926 (July 26, 2015). The DOE therefore recommends that the Commission find that the resulting adjustments to the line extension charge for an effective date of April 1, 2023, are just and reasonable.

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission is authorized to fix rates after a hearing, upon determining that rates, fares, and charges are just and reasonable. RSA 378:7. In circumstances where a utility seeks to increase rates, the utility bears the burden of proving the necessity of the increase pursuant to RSA 378:8. In determining whether rates are just and reasonable, the Commission must balance the customers' interest in paying no higher rates than are required against the investors' interest in obtaining a reasonable return on their investment. *Eastman Sewer Company, Inc.*, 138 N.H. 221, 225 (1994). In this way, the Commission serves as arbiter between the interests of customers and those of regulated utilities. See RSA 363:17-a; see also *EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. d/b/a National Grid NH*, Order No. 25,202 at 17 (March 10, 2011)

In this case we are guided by the policy and method we have approved for Eversource to recalculate its line extension charges annually. See Order No. 25,046 (November 20, 2009) and Order No. 25,926 (July 26, 2015). We find that Eversource has calculated the new line extension charges correctly based on the prior two years of cost data. The DOE has recommended approval of these charges. We find that the proposed line extension charges are just and reasonable and we approve them for effect on May 1, 2023.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, that subject to the effective date below, the line extension charges of \$30.69 per foot for single phase overhead lines and \$20.32 per foot for single phase underground lines are APPROVED for effect May 1, 2023; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioner shall cause a copy of this order to be published on its website in a prominent and visible place, such publication to be no

later than two business days from the date of this order and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before five business days from the date of this order; and it is


FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this order be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than April 10, 2023, for the Commission's consideration; and it is

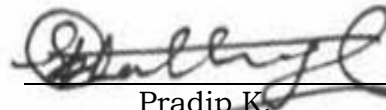
FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than April 17, 2023; and it is

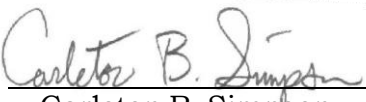
FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective May 1, 2023, unless the Petitioner fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioner shall file a compliance tariff with the Commission on or before 15 days from the date of this order, in accordance with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603.02(b).

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-ninth day of March, 2023.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K.
Chattopadhyay
Commissioner


Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 23-019

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