

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

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

**Docket No. DE 23-\_\_\_\_**

**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 states as follows:

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.<sup>1</sup> 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 since 2013 has been at a level of \$12 million annually. Pursuant to Order No. 25,465 (February 26, 2013), issued in Docket No. DE 12-320, Eversource may also charge specified pre-staging costs to the MSCR for

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

events that do not ultimately rise to the level of a Major Storm if certain defined criteria are met.<sup>2</sup>

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 approved in Docket No. DE 19-057, Eversource seeks review of the costs of nine Major Storm and Pre-Staging events that occurred from January 2022 through July 2022: (1) January 17, 2022 Pre-Staging event; (2) January 29, 2022 Pre-Staging event; (3) February 4, 2022 Pre-Staging event; (4) February 25, 2022 Pre-Staging event; (5) March 8, 2022 Major Storm; (6) March 11, 2022 Pre-Staging event; (7) April 20, 2022 Major Storm; (8) July 21, 2022 Major Storm; and (9) July 24, 2022 Pre-Staging event. Eversource is requesting an audit of the costs of those events so that recovery of such costs may be implemented through the MSCR or through an alternative mechanism. Historically, the Company would request approval for storm costs to be recovered through the MSCR; however, given that the MSCR has been depleted,<sup>3</sup> there are no funds to apply and the Company therefore requests approval to defer the storm costs, plus carrying charges, to the storm cost asset account #186430 until the Company has recovered the approved costs and associated carrying charges. Eversource possesses and will provide upon request all information and documentation necessary to facilitate the Department of Energy's audit of the storm events listed in this petition and described more fully in the pre-filed testimony submitted herewith.

3. In addition, there were Storm Events that occurred in November and December 2022 that have been excluded from this filing because the Company has not yet finalized their costs. The costs related to those Storm Events will be considered "finalized" once there are no longer any unvouchered liabilities ("UVLs") charged to the relevant work order, where UVLs are used to record or estimate the liability that exists for work performed for the Company, but for which an actual invoice has not yet been received. Moreover, even though the process for tracking, revising, and finalizing storm costs is relatively reliable, there is still the possibility for a relevant charge to be received after

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<sup>2</sup> The Testimony of David L. Bickford filed on December 19, 2012 in Docket No. DE 12-320 provides a description of the types of pre-staging costs permitted to be charged to the MSCR.

<sup>3</sup> See Eversource letter filed on April 17, 2023 in Docket No. DE 22-031.

costs for a storm have been filed. For example, this situation could occur if invoices were received, and a liability was not recorded or applied. The Company would include any such later-discovered charges in subsequent annual storm cost recovery filings.

4. With this petition, Eversource includes the joint testimony of Marisa B. Paruta and Dean C. Desautels to explain the costs of the Major Storm and Pre-Staging events described above, to describe the function of the Reserve, and to describe each Major Storm and Pre-Staging event and the Company's response to such events.

5. Of note, Eversource does not seek any adjustment to rates to account for the costs incurred related to the Major Storm and Prestaging events. Instead, the Company is seeking only review of the costs for recovery through the MSCR, which is the mechanism specifically designed to allow for recovery of such costs, or through an alternative mechanism at a later time, as noted in paragraph 2 above.

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

Respectfully submitted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2023,

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

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