

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
before the
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy

DOCKET NO. DE 23-_____

POLE PLANT ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM RATES

Petition for Approval of Pole Plant Adjustment Mechanism Rates Effective
October 1, 2023

Pursuant to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission") Order No. 26,729 (November 18, 2022) issued in Docket No. DE 21-020 (the "Order"), Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource" or the "Company") hereby petitions the Commission for approval of its initial Pole Plant Adjustment Mechanism ("PPAM") rates for effect October 1, 2023. In support of this Petition, Eversource states the following:

1. The Order approved a Settlement and Pole Asset Purchase Agreement executed by the Company and Consolidated Communications of Northern New England, LLC d/b/a Consolidated Communications ("Consolidated" or "CCI") through which Eversource acquired CCI's interest in certain pole assets (the "Transaction").
2. The Order authorized the Company to recover certain costs resulting from its acquisition of CCI's interest in these pole assets. Specifically, the Order authorized the Company to recover through the PPAM: (a) costs and expenses associated with operation and maintenance ("O&M") of the transferred poles, (b) pole inspections, and (c) vegetation management expenses. Order at 17-18. The Order further clarified that the Company is authorized to recover vegetation management costs that were billed or should have been billed to Consolidated beginning on February 10, 2021. Order at 18.

These costs are offset by any increase in pole attachment revenues Eversource receives as a result of becoming the sole owner of the transferred pole assets.

3. On May 1, 2023, the Transaction with Consolidated was finalized.
4. On May 12, 2023, the Company submitted a compliance tariff to implement the PPAM.
5. This filing is submitted requesting to implement the first PPAM rates for effect October 1, 2023.
6. Due to the timing of the Transaction's closing, the Company is seeking recovery only for vegetation management costs billed to Consolidated from February 10, 2021 through December 31, 2022 as part of this PPAM filing. This time period (prior to December 31, 2022) was prior to closing of the transaction with CCI and therefore no other categories of costs allowed for recovery through the PPAM were incurred and no incremental pole attachment revenues were collected.
7. Together with this petition, the Company is submitting the joint testimony of Marisa B. Paruta and Scott R. Anderson together with supporting attachments setting forth the calculations of the proposed PPAM rates and associated bill impacts.
8. As described in the above-referenced testimony and supporting attachments, the Company is proposing the PPAM rates for effect October 1, 2023 as set forth in Attachment MBP/SRA-3, at 1 to collect a revenue requirement of \$14,714,102 associated with vegetation management costs incurred through December 31, 2022.

The table below shows the average PPAM rates proposed for October 1, 2023:

Description	Prior PPAM Rate (cents per kWh)	DE 23-xx Proposed PPAM Rate (cents per kWh)	PPAM Rate Change (cents per kWh)
Total Average PPAM Rate	N/A	0.190	0.190

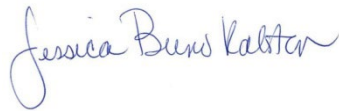
9. The rate adjustment requested by the Company in this filing will result in rates that are just and reasonable and in the public interest and therefore should be approved.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Grant the Company's request for PPAM rates effective on October 1, 2023 as set forth in Attachment MBP/SRA-3, at 1 and described in the supporting testimony;
- B. Schedule a hearing expeditiously to allow for rates effective October 1, 2023; and
- C. Order such further relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

**Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource
Energy**
By Its Attorneys



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Dated: August 2, 2023

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 2, 2023, I caused the attached to be served pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.11.

Jessica Burns Kallstrom
