

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

Docket No. DE 24-xxx

**JOINT PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY AND NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC. TO ALTER THEIR FRANCHISE AREAS
IN CHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”) and New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“NHEC”) hereby jointly petition the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to issue an order approving an adjustment in their franchise areas in the Town of Chester, New Hampshire, so as to accommodate the request from a new customer for a line extension for service on Pomp Road, as well as to confirm existing service to another customer by NHEC, as shown in more detail on Attachment A to this Joint Petition.

For the reasons set forth below, Eversource and NHEC jointly agree that the public interest would best be served by the adjustment of their respective franchise areas in the Town of Chester in order to permit NHEC to provide service to a new customer at Lot 2-38 and to an existing customer at Lot 2-40, already being served by NHEC, where both of those lots are currently within the Eversource franchise area. NHEC has electric distribution facilities within the immediate vicinity of the two parcels, but Eversource does not, as shown in Attachment B to this Joint Petition. The two lots are proposed to be moved from the Eversource franchise area to the NHEC franchise area within the Town. The requested relief is authorized under RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26 (NHEC and Eversource note that RSA 374:22 does not apply to NHEC, pursuant to RSA 362:2). In support of this Joint Petition, Eversource and NHEC state as follows:

1. A residence that is proposed to be built on Lot 2-38 on Pomp Road in the Town of Chester is closer to electric distribution facilities owned and operated by NHEC, including those

used by NHEC to provide existing service to a customer at Lot 2-40 on Pomp Road, than to any such facilities owned and operated by Eversource. The locations of the two parcels and their relative proximity to NHEC facilities and relative distance from Eversource facilities are shown in Attachment B. The cost for Eversource to extend service to Lot 2-38 therefore would be significantly greater than the cost for NHEC to extend service to that parcel. And NHEC already provides electric service to customers on Pomp Road, including to the property owner at Lot 2-40, the majority of which parcel currently is located within the Eversource franchise area in the Town. Accordingly, service may be provided to the Lot 2-38 property with less extensive construction and at lesser cost by NHEC than by Eversource, and the requested customer line extension to Lot 2-38 can be accomplished more economically and readily by NHEC.

2. In light of the specific circumstances described above, the two customers would be better served by NHEC, and both NHEC and Eversource would incur lesser costs if NHEC were to serve the two Lots. Therefore, Eversource and NHEC agree to adjust their respective franchise areas in the Town of Chester in order to accommodate the new customer's service request and to reflect the service already being provided by NHEC to the existing customer, all consistent with the public interest. Eversource and NHEC accordingly intend to adjust the franchise boundary lines as shown in Attachment A to reflect the updates to service to accommodate Lots 2-38 and 2-40.

3. Eversource and NHEC understand that both the new customer and the existing customer agree with and support this proposal. When all parties agree, the Commission may grant the permission requested without a hearing pursuant to RSA 374:26. In the interest of an expedient resolution, and because this is not a contested case with any issues in dispute, Eversource and NHEC request that the Commission approve the proposed franchise boundary adjustment through issuance of an order *nisi*, as the Commission has done in the past with such agreements between Eversource and NHEC, for example in Docket Nos. DE 19-184 and DE 19-

073, and consistent with the most recent approval granted in Docket No. DE 22-077.

Respectfully submitted,

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

By its Attorney

Dated: February 15, 2024

/s/ David K. Wiesner

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the date written below, I caused the attached to be served pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.11.

Dated: February 15, 2024

/s/ David K. Wiesner
David K. Wiesner