

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

Pole Plant Adjustment Mechanism Rates

Docket No. DE 24-xxx

PETITION FOR CHANGE IN POLE PLANT ADJUSTMENT
MECHANISM RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

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 a change in its Pole Plant Adjustment Mechanism ("PPAM") rates for effect October 1, 2024. In support of this Petition, Eversource states as follows:

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 those 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 completed and the Company acquired the pole assets from CCI under the terms of the Settlement and Pole Asset Purchase Agreement.
4. On May 12, 2023, the Company submitted a compliance tariff to implement the PPAM.
5. On August 2, 2023, the Company submitted its initial PPAM rate filing in Docket No. DE 23-075, seeking recovery only for vegetation management costs billed to Consolidated from February 10, 2021 through December 31, 2022. The Commission approved those initial PPAM rates by Order No. 26,892 (September 29, 2023).
6. This filing is submitted to request adjustment of the PPAM rates, for effect October 1, 2024, in order to recover incremental costs and expenses associated with O&M of the transferred poles, pole inspections, and vegetation management expenses incurred during calendar year 2023, offset by pole attachment revenues received from CCI and third-party attachers during that period.
7. Together with this petition, the Company is submitting the joint testimony of Yi-An Chen, Scott R. Anderson, Ian J. Farley, and Joshua D. Letourneau, as well as 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 rate for effect October 1, 2024 as set forth in Attachment YC/SRA/IJF/JDL-1, at Page 1, to collect a revenue requirement of \$7,156,419 associated with relevant costs incurred from January 1, 2023 through

December 31, 2023. The table below shows the average PPAM rate proposed for October 1, 2024:

Description	DE 23-075 PPAM Rate (cents per kWh)	DE 24-xxx Proposed PPAM Rate (cents per kWh)	PPAM Rate Change (cents per kWh)
Total Average PPAM Rate	0.194	0.093	(0.101)

9. The PPAM rate adjustments 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 adjusted PPAM rates effective on October 1, 2024, as set forth in Attachment YC/SRA/IJF/JDL-6, at Page 1, and as described in the supporting testimony;
- B. Schedule at hearing expeditiously to allow for rates to become effective on October 1, 2024; and
- C. Order such other and further relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: August 1, 2024

By: /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: August 1, 2024

/s/ **David K. Wiesner**
David K. Wiesner