

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 24-115

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Petition for Approval of 2025 Lost Base Revenue Rate

COMMENCEMENT OF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING AND NOTICE OF HEARING

On December 2, 2024, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a “Petition for Approval of the 2025 Lost Base Revenue Rate.” Despite the title of its petition, Eversource is requesting that the Commission approve its proposed total system benefits charge (SBC) rate, including the Energy Efficiency (EE) rate component,¹ in addition to its lost base revenue (LBR) rate, both for effect on January 1, 2025. In support of its petition, Eversource filed the testimony of Ashley N. Botelho, Director of Revenue Requirements, Distribution, for Eversource Energy Service Company (Botelho Testimony), and related attachments. All docket filings, other than any information subject to confidential treatment, are available on the Commission’s website at www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2024/24-115.html.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The SBC is a nonbypassable charge applied to customer electric bills, which “may be used to fund public benefits related to the provision of electricity,” such as energy efficiency programs. RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(a); *Pub. Serv. Co. of N.H.*, Order No. 26,922 at 2 (December 22, 2023). As Ms. Botelho explained in her testimony, the SBC

¹ All the other utilities have submitted their proposed 2025 EE rate component filings in a separate docket, No. DE 24-113, consistent with last year’s practice in Docket No. DE 23-098.

has three components: a statutory Electric Assistance Program or EAP rate of \$0.00150, an EE rate, and an LBR rate. Botelho Testimony at Pages 13-14. The LBR rate recovers revenue that Eversource estimates it will lose from decreased sales resulting from EE programs. Order No. 26,922 at 2.

Ms. Botelho testified that Eversource calculated the EE portion of its proposed SBC rate by applying the approved consumer price index factor of 4.978 percent to its current EE rate of \$0.00577 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), pursuant to RSA 374-F:3, VI-a. Botelho Testimony at 4. It determined its 2025 EE rate to be \$0.00606 per kWh. *Id.* at 3, 14. Ms. Botelho stated that Eversource calculated its proposed LBR rate by totaling the preliminary 2024 LBR over-recovery, the forecasted 2025 LBR revenue, and estimated current year interest charges, and dividing this sum by forecasted sales, resulting in a proposed LBR rate that is a credit of (\$0.00131) per kWh. *Id.* at 5-6, 14.

Eversource proposed a total SBC rate of \$0.00625 per kWh effective January 1, 2025. *Id.* at 14. If the proposed 2025 SBC rate were approved, the monthly bill of an average residential customer using 600 kWh per month would be reduced by \$1.68. *Id.* at 14; Attachment E3 at Page 12.

Although Eversource did not state this in either its cover letter or its petition, on the last page of her testimony, Ms. Botelho advised that “Eversource requires final approval of the SBC (EE, EAP ad LBR) rate **by December 20, 2024**, so that a complete updated SBC rate can be implemented on January 1, 2025.” Botelho Testimony at 15 (emphasis added). Eversource filed its prior petition for approval of 2024 LBR rates in Docket No. DE 23-080 on September 1, 2023. Further, Eversource requested that, “[s]ince the LBR is fully reconciling, and should no party intervene to contest this proposed rate,” the Commission approve both the 2025 LBR rate and total SBC rate by order *nisi*. See Petition at 2-3.

II. ISSUES PRESENTED

The filing presents, *inter alia*, the following issues: whether Eversource correctly calculated the proposed 2025 EE, LBR, and total SBC rates, consistent with RSA 374-F:3, VI-a; and whether the proposed 2025 EE, LBR, and total SBC rates are otherwise lawful, just, and reasonable, as required by RSA 374:2, RSA 378:5, and RSA 378:7. The Commission will also inquire regarding the combining of the EE rate and the LBR rate component proposals into a single petition by Eversource, with the EE rate component being kept separate from the Docket No DE 24-113 EE rate proceeding involving the other electric and gas utilities, and with the LBR rate component filing being made significantly later than in 2023. Accordingly, an adjudicative proceeding will be convened to address these issues.

Given the recent precedent of the proceeding in Docket No. DE 23-080, wherein a substantive review and hearing were undertaken for the proposed rates, and the short time remaining before the proposed effective date of the rates involved (January 1, 2025), the Commission declines to disposition this matter by order *nisi*, and instead, due to Commission scheduling commitments in December, will assign an examiner to hear the case and render recommendations to the Commission, with a goal of the Commission issuing a dispositional order by December 31, 2024.

The Commission will be conducting any hearings scheduled in this matter in person. The Commission will consider requests to conduct hearings using a hybrid format to permit remote participation by a specific individual only if the Commission has determined that a sufficient reason has been provided for why that individual would be unable to attend in person. Any party requesting that a specific individual be permitted to participate remotely should file a written request with the Commission's Clerk's Office no later than five (5) days prior to the hearing date. If the Commission

determines that one or more individuals will be permitted to appear remotely, then individuals in the Commission's hearing room, including the Commissioners, will be broadcast on a web-enabled platform.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that an adjudicative proceeding be commenced for the purpose of reviewing and resolving the foregoing issues pursuant to RSA chapter 541-A, RSA 374:2, RSA 378:5, and RSA 378:7, and the Commission's procedural rules; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a hearing in this matter at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on December 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Three hours shall be allotted for this hearing. We assign Attorney Alexander Speidel, a Senior Advisor to the Commission, to serve as an examiner for the hearing, to report the facts, and make recommendations to the Commission. Attorney Speidel is to file his Examiner Report on December 27, 2024. Any party may request that this hearing be held "by the full commission, or a majority thereof" so long as that request is made 5 days before the date of the hearing. RSA 363:17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the New Hampshire Department of Energy is requested to file its position regarding Eversource's petition, including the reasons for this position, on or before December 23, 2024; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any entity or individual may petition to intervene and seek to be admitted as a party in this proceeding. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any entity or individual seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to Eversource and any

other parties on the service list, on or before December 20, 2024. The petition shall state the facts demonstrating how the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before December 26, 2024; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that parties shall file any proposed exhibits, written testimony, motions, or other documents intended to become part of the record in this proceeding with the Commission. Pursuant to the secretarial letter issued on March 17, 2020, which is posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Secretarial%20Letters/20200317-SecLtr-Temp-Changes-in-Filing-Requirements.pdf>, all Commission rules requiring the filing of paper copies are suspended until further notice. Parties may elect to submit any filing in electronic form unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Filings will be considered filed as of the time the electronic copy is received by the Commission; and it is

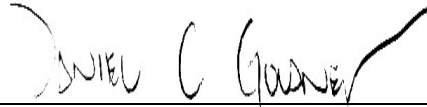
FURTHER ORDERED, that routine procedural inquiries may be made by contacting the Commission's Clerk's Office at (603) 271-2431 or ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov. All requests to the Commission should be made in a written pleading filed with the Commission. Unless otherwise authorized by law, *ex parte* communications are prohibited; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than two business days after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before December 18, 2024. In addition, the Clerk shall publish

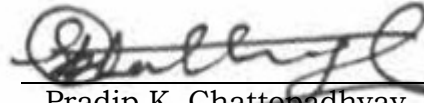
this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than two business days after the date of issue; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any hearings in this matter shall be conducted in accordance with the attached hearing guidelines.

So ordered, this eleventh day of December, 2024.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 24-115

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