

**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 the 2025 Lost Base Revenue Rate

**Order *Nisi* Approving Request to Modify Energy Efficiency Portion of
System Benefit Charge**

O R D E R N O. 27,089

December 18, 2024

In this order, the Commission approves on a *nisi* basis the proposal filed by Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) reflecting a 4.978 percent increase to the energy efficiency charge (EEC) component of the System Benefits Charge (SBC) charged to Eversource ratepayers. For this upcoming EEC rate period, from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, the Eversource EEC rate will increase from 0.577 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 0.606 cents per kWh, for all classes of Eversource distribution customers.

I. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2), on December 2, 2024, Eversource filed a rate increase proposal related to the EEC, for effect on January 1, 2025. Eversource made this filing within this instant DE 24-115 docket, which is primarily related to its Lost Base Revenue rate proposals, as opposed to Docket No. DE 24-113, wherein Eversource's peer electric and gas utilities in New Hampshire all made their respective EEC filings pursuant to RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2). As stated above, Eversource proposes that, through the application of the statutorily-specified inflation factor to the existing EEC, the EEC rate component of the SBC be increased from 0.577 cents per kWh to

0.606 cents per kWh. See Eversource Petition, Docket No. DE 24-115, December 2, 2024, Botelho Testimony, at Pages 3-4.

On December 11, 2024, the Commission issued a Commencement of Adjudicative Proceeding and Notice of Hearing order scheduling a hearing for the matters noticed, including the EEC rate component proposal by Eversource, for December 26, 2024, in light of the Company's stated intent to integrate the proposed rate changes for effect on January 1, 2025.

Subsequently, on December 13, 2024, Eversource made a filing, with the assent of the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) and the Office of the Consumer Advocate, requesting that the Commission reschedule the December 26 hearing. In its motion, citing the upcoming late-December holidays, and stating that Eversource had intended its combining of the EEC and Lost Base Revenue rate components into a single petition to serve the cause of administrative efficiency, Eversource requested that the Commission's consideration of the EEC rate proposal be transferred to Docket No. DE 24-113 (wherein the other electric and gas utilities' EEC proposals had been approved by the Commission on an order *nisi* basis in Order No. 27,087, issued on December 12, 2024). On December 16, 2024, the Commission ruled on Eversource's December 13 motion in a procedural order by cancelling the December 26 hearing, and indicating to the parties that it expected to issue an order, on a *nisi* basis, addressing the Eversource EEC SBC rate component in this instant DE 24-115 docket, for effect on January 1, 2025. No adverse positions regarding the Eversource EEC rate component proposal have been filed with the Commission since December 2, 2024, the date Eversource's filing was made.

Eversource's EEC petition is posted to the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2024/24-115.html>.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2), as amended, directed the EEC portion of SBC (electric) rates to adjust annually beginning on January 1, 2023 using the CPI-W, which for the current period amounts to a blended 3-year inflation rate of 4.978 percent. (The annual adjustment factor to the EEC must be calculated by the DOE based on the most recently available 3-year average of the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor). RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2).

Having reviewed the Eversource petition as relating to the EEC, we hereby APPROVE that petition on a *nisi* basis, increasing the Eversource EEC rate component of the SBC from 0.577 cents per kWh to 0.606 cents per kWh, for effect on January 1, 2025. We also hereby ORDER Eversource, for the upcoming 2026 EEC year and subsequent EEC years, to make its EEC adjustment filings together with the other New Hampshire electric and gas utilities, into the same docket, for administrative efficiency. We further request that the DOE supplement its forthcoming December 20, 2024 technical statement to include Eversource's current proposal in the attestation of EEC rate-calculation accuracy. Having approved the Eversource EEC rate proposal in this instant docket, the Eversource request, presented in its December 13 motion, to transfer consideration of the matter to Docket No. DE 24-113 is hereby rendered MOOT.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI* , that subject to the effective date below, the Eversource filing, increasing the Energy Efficiency Charge collected as a component of the System Benefits Charge pursuant to RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2), for effect January 1, 2025, is hereby APPROVED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Eversource shall post a copy of this order *nisi* on its website no later than December 20, 2024, with such posting to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before December 27, 2024; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a copy of this order *nisi* be posted on the Commission's website within two business days; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, it is requested that the New Hampshire Department of Energy verify, by filing a technical statement with the Commission on or before December 20, 2024, that it calculated an inflation adjustment pursuant to RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2) and its calculated adjustment was accurately applied by Eversource; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this order be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing, stating the reason and basis for a hearing, no later than December 27, 2024 for the Commission's consideration; and it is

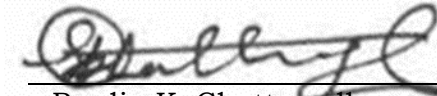
FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than December 31, 2024; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective January 1, 2025, unless any publication or filing obligation set forth above is not complied with or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Eversource shall file compliance tariff pages with the Commission on or before January 17, 2025, in accordance with N.H Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603.02(b).

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighteenth day of December, 2024.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 24-115

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