

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 15-089

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

Line Extension Policy

Order Denying Implementation of Tariff

ORDER NO. 25,796

June 25, 2015

In this Order, the Commission denies a request by Eversource to modify customer costs for line extension construction to allow Staff to complete its investigation into line extension policies in Docket No. IR 14-190.

On February 25, 2015, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a report on its line extension policy consisting of a technical statement and a proposed tariff. The filing was made pursuant to the terms of a Settlement Agreement in Docket No. DE 08-135 approved by the Commission in Order No. 25,046 (Nov. 20, 2009). The Settlement Agreement allowed Eversource to phase in, over three years, new line extension charges based on a specified per-foot cost. The phase-in period ended March 31, 2013, after which the Settlement Agreement authorized Eversource to calculate the average cost per foot by construction type for the period April 1 through March 31 of each year, using an average of actual costs from the three prior years. Based on its calculation of prior year costs, Eversource proposed to increase the per-foot cost of single-phase overhead line extensions from \$21.54 to \$22.38, and to decrease the per-foot cost of single phase underground line extensions from \$15.37 to \$14.82, for the period beginning April 1, 2015.

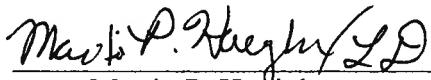
We issued Order No. 25,769 on March 26, 2015, suspending the proposed tariff because we previously opened Docket No. IR 14-190 to investigate the line extension policies of all electric distribution utilities. On June 19, 2015, Staff filed a recommendation that the Commission reject Eversource's proposed tariff and direct Eversource to continue its participation in Docket No. IR 14-190.

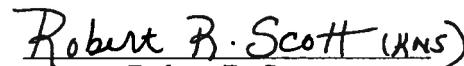
We appreciate that the Eversource filing was made pursuant to an approved Settlement Agreement; however, we find it would not be in the public interest to allow Eversource to change customer costs for line extension construction at this time, given the ongoing investigation in Docket No. IR 14-190. Therefore, we deny the authority of Eversource to implement the proposed cost changes contained in the tariff it supplied with its February 25th filing. We direct Staff to file a procedural schedule with a proposed hearing date in Docket No. IR 14-190 to bring that matter before us for our deliberation.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

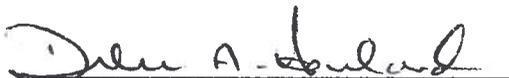
ORDERED, the authority of Eversource to implement the proposed tariff changes to customer costs of constructing line extensions is hereby DENIED.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-fifth day of June, 2015.


Martin P. Honigberg
Chairman


Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

Attested by:


Debra A. Howland
Executive Director