

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 22-011

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Line Extension Rate Filing

Order *Nisi* Approving Updated Line Extension Rates

ORDER NO. 26,614

April 22, 2022

This order approves an update to line extension rates by Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy. Per-foot costs to be assessed under the terms of the Eversource tariff are \$30.45 for overhead single-phase line extensions, and \$18.10 for single-phase underground line extensions. These represent increases from the current rates, and the new rates are to be effective as of April 1, 2022.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On March 2, 2022, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource, or the Company) filed a request for an extension of time to file its annual updates to line-extension charges made pursuant to the terms of the policy established and delineated in Order No. 25,046 (November 20, 2009), issued in Docket No. DE 08-135. The Commission granted the Company's request in a procedural order on March 3, 2022, in which Eversource was ordered to file its annual line extension rate filing by March 11, 2022, and the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) was requested to submit its recommendation to the Commission regarding same by March 21, 2022. Eversource filed a second request for an extension of time on March 4, 2022. This second extension was also approved by the

Commission in a procedural order on March 7, 2022, which gave the Company until March 15, 2022, to make its filing.

The Company made its timely petition filing on March 15, 2022. Eversource subsequently filed an "Updated Technical Statement" regarding the rates considered in this proceeding on March 29, 2022, which was in turn followed by the Company's "Corrected Technical Statement and Proposed Tariff Pages" filed on March 30, 2022. The DOE responded with a recommendation for Commission approval of the line-extension rate updates on March 30, 2022, and a DOE "Letter of Clarification" filed on March 31, 2022, indicating that the DOE recommended that the Company's proposal filed on March 30, 2022, should be approved.

The Company's petition and associated docket filings are posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2022/22-011.html>

II. POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES

A. Eversource

The Company, in its corrected Technical Statement of George J. Knowles, filed on March 30, 2022, with a companion proposed Second Revised Tariff Page 26, outlined its proposal for this matter, as updated. The Company stated that the settlement agreement in Docket No. DE 08-135 requires Eversource to update its line extension costs on an annual basis. Revised rates are calculated based on the average cost per foot for single-phase line extensions completed in the prior three calendar years. The resulting per foot rate is then adjusted for inflation, using the applicable annual Consumer Price Index. Using this methodology, Eversource calculated an increase in the per foot cost for overhead single-phase line extensions from \$29.69 to \$30.45, for effect on April 1, 2022. For single-phase underground line extensions, the

cost to customers will increase from \$16.64 to \$18.10 per foot. Charges for three-phase overhead and underground line extensions will continue to be based on customer-specific job requirements.

B. Department of Energy

In its March 30, 2022, filing, the DOE stated that it reviewed Eversource's methodology and revised calculations for the resulting costs per foot for single-phase overhead and underground facilities to be charged to customers during the period from April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023. The DOE expressed that the methodology and calculations are consistent with the settlement agreement approved in Docket No. DE 08-135 (in Order No. 25,046), and that the resulting charge adjustments were just and reasonable in the DOE's view. The DOE further recommended Commission approval of the Company's proposed revisions to Page 26 of its Tariff for an effective date of April 1, 2022. The DOE, in a letter filed on March 31, 2022, reiterated its support for the Company's proposal, as modified by Eversource's Letter of Clarification filed on March 30, 2022.

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission has reviewed Eversource's filing and accepted the DOE's recommendation that that the methodology and calculations presented for the changes to the Company's Tariff Page 26 are consistent with the settlement agreement approved in Docket No. DE 08-135 in Order No. 25,046 and that the resulting charge adjustments are just and reasonable pursuant to the settlement agreement and the ratemaking standards of RSA Chapter 378. We approve these adjustments with an effective date of April 1, 2022. Eversource shall file with the Commission an updated copy of its newly revised Tariff Page 26, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603.05(d).

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED NISI, that pursuant to RSA 378:3 and N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603.07, the updated Second (2nd) Revised Page 26 Tariff provisions for Line Extensions by Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy submitted on March 30, 2022, are APPROVED to take effect as of April 1, 2022; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Company shall file a Second (2nd) Revised Tariff Page 26 conforming to this order within 15 days of the date of this order pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603.02(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Company shall cause a copy of this order to be published on its website within one business day of this order, and to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before May 16, 2022; and it is

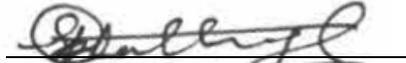
FURTHER ORDERED, that persons interested in responding to this order be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for hearing, stating the reason and basis for a hearing, no later than April 27, 2022 for the Commission's consideration; and it is

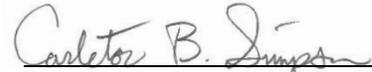
FURTHER ORDERED, that any person interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than May 4, 2022; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective May 23, 2022, unless the Company fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-second day of April, 2022.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner


Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 22-011

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