

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHAIRWOMAN
Dianne Martin

COMMISSIONER
Kathryn M. Bailey

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Debra A. Howland



TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

December 22, 2020

Re: DE 17-136, Electric and Gas Utilities
2018-2020 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan
Approving Staff Recommendation Dated December 1, 2020

To the Parties:

On November 23, 2020, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a letter requesting the Commission's authorization to transfer \$3,088,661 to its energy efficiency residential sector budget (residential sector) from its commercial and industrial sector budget, which would increase its residential sector spending to \$25,888,617. Eversource would use the transferred funding primarily for its low income program, resulting in Eversource exceeding 120 percent of its original income eligible program budget in 2020. Commission Staff (Staff) filed a memorandum on December 1, 2020 recommending that the Commission grant Eversource's request.

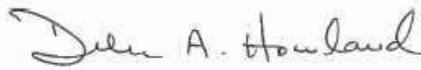
Eversource stated that it requested the transfer of funding to its residential sector budget to meet projected overspending in the residential sector, mainly in its income eligible program. On the other hand, Eversource anticipates that it will spend only 84 percent of its commercial and industrial sector budget. It explained that the additional spending would help customers reduce energy use at a time when they may be using more energy at home, as well as experiencing economic hardships, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the funding transfer would provide stability for energy efficiency contractors during a difficult year for businesses in New Hampshire by allowing energy efficiency projects to move forward in 2020.

Staff noted in its recommendation that the 2018-2020 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan requires Commission authorization for transfers of funds between the residential and the commercial and industrial budget sectors. It also requires utilities to notify the Commission if an individual program's actual expenditures are expected to exceed 120 percent of the program's budget. Staff recommended that the Commission approve Eversource's requested transfer of \$3,088,661 from its commercial and industrial sector budget, which will be underspent, because more people are working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, and businesses are unlikely to incur additional expenditures on energy efficiency. Staff stated that, unless the Commission approved Eversource's request, residential program participants would have to wait until the 2021 program year to be served.

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The Commission has reviewed Eversource's November 23, 2020 request and Staff's December 1, 2020 recommendation. Based on Staff's recommendation, the Commission approves Eversource's transfer of \$3,088,661 from its commercial and industrial sector budget to its residential sector budget, with the transferred funding to be used primarily for Eversource's low income program, so that its low income budget will exceed 120 percent of the program's original 2020 budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra A. Howland". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Service List (Electronically)
Docket File

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 17-136

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Email Addresses

ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov
scott.albert@gdsassociates.com
suzanne.amidon@puc.nh.gov
asbury@unitil.com
robertbackus05@comcast.net
thomas.belair@eversource.com
robert.bersak@eversource.com
mbirchard@keyesfox.com
brianna@cleanenergynh.org
james.brennan@oca.nh.gov
kelly@cleanenergynh.org
brian.buckley@puc.nh.gov
rburke@nhla.org
carroll@unitil.com
richard.chagnon@puc.nh.gov
pradip.chattopadhyay@oca.nh.gov
jessica.chiavara@eversource.com
rclouthier@snhs.org
karen.cramton@puc.nh.gov
kristi.davie@eversource.com
edward.davis@eversource.com
mdean@mdeanlaw.net
demeris@unitil.com
allen.desbiens@eversource.com
paul.dexter@puc.nh.gov
downesm@unitil.com
jay.dudley@puc.nh.gov
Stephen.Eckberg@puc.nh.gov
steven.elliott@eversource.com
epler@unitil.com
kbashford@iso-ne.com
joseph.fontaine@des.nh.gov
matthew.fossum@eversource.com
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov
steve.frink@puc.nh.gov
tomas.fuller@eversource.com
susan.gagne@puc.nh.gov
sgeiger@orr-reno.com
michael.goldman@eversource.com

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gouldingc@unitil.com
Stephen.Hall@libertyutilities.com
miles.ingram@eversource.com
al-azad.iqbal@puc.nh.gov
jarvis@unitil.com
maureen.karpf@libertyutilities.com
sarah.knowlton@libertyutilities.com
nkrakoff@clf.org
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov
marc.lemenager@eversource.com
jmarks@acadiacenter.org
smaslansky@nhcdfa.org
frank.melanson@eversource.com
erica.menard@eversource.com
madeleine@cleanenergynh.org
Mosenthal@OptEnergy.com
steven.mullen@libertyutilities.com
elizabeth.nixon@puc.nh.gov
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov
palma@unitil.com
deandra.perruccio@puc.nh.gov
katherine.peters@eversource.com
christopher.plecs@eversource.com
laurel.proulx@eversource.com
bob.reals@libertyutilities.com
trooney@trcsolutions.com
F.Ross@puc.nh.gov
michael.sheehan@libertyutilities.com
Christa.Shute@oca.nh.gov
karen.sinville@libertyutilities.com
matt.siska@gdsassociates.com
snowc@nhec.com
eric.stanley@libertyutilities.com
joseph.swift@eversource.com
taylorp@unitil.com
teamnh@energyservicesgroup.net
heather.tebbetts@libertyutilities.com
stower@nhla.org
stracy@pierceatwood.com
cynthia.trottier@libertyutilities.com
jvanrossum@clf.org
woodsca@nhec.com
craig.wright@des.nh.gov