

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 17-160

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

Petition for Recovery of Annual Assessment and Consultant Costs

ORDER OF NOTICE

On October 20, 2017, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a petition for recovery of annual assessment and consultant costs. The petition requests an adjustment to its distribution rates to recover such costs for effect with service rendered on and after January 1, 2018.

Pursuant to RSA 363-A, the Commission bills, or assesses, Eversource for a portion of the Commission's annual expenses, and Eversource recovers the costs of the assessment from ratepayers through its distribution rates. In Order No. 25,743 (Dec. 29, 2014), the Commission approved the rate by which Eversource would recover the adjusted assessment costs for fiscal year 2015. Despite minor fluctuations in the amount of the assessment, Eversource's distribution rates have not been adjusted to account for any change in the assessment since that time. For fiscal year 2018, the assessment is approximately \$874,000 higher than the amount presently recovered, and Eversource seeks through this petition approval to adjust distribution rates to recover the full costs of the assessment. Eversource proposes to increase distribution rates by 0.012 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) to recover assessment costs.

Eversource is also seeking recovery of certain consultant costs incurred by the Office of Consumer Advocate and Commission Staff from 2016 to the present that have been invoiced to Eversource in the Grid Modernization and Net Metering Dockets (Docket Nos. IR 15-296 and

DE 16-567, respectively). The two proceedings concluded in 2017. According to Eversource, the costs associated with the Grid Modernization docket total \$140,000, and similar costs associated with the New Metering docket totals \$291,000, for a combined sum of \$431,000. Eversource is proposing that the consultant costs be recovered over a one year period beginning January 1, 2018 at a rate of 0.005 cents per kWh (kWh). If approved the result would be an increase in distribution rates of 0.017 cents per kWh, effective with services rendered on and after January 1, 2018.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at www.puc.nh.gov.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the calculation of assessment and consultant costs is accurate, and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable pursuant to RSA 378:5 and 7, and RSA 374:1. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Hearing, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on December 19, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than November 30, 2017, in a newspaper with general circulation in

those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before December 15, 2017; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Eversource and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before December 5, 2018, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before December 19, 2017.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-first day of November, 2017.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, 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 - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:**
- DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.**
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.**