



**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

September 17, 2021

Dianne Martin, Chairwoman  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

**Re: DE 20-161 Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy  
2020 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan  
Proposed Procedural Schedule**

Dear Chairwoman Martin:

On April 13, 2021, the Commission approved an interim procedural schedule for the above-referenced proceeding. On June 15, 2021, the Staff of the Commission (now, Department of Energy Regulatory Support Division, or, "Energy") filed an assented to request to suspend the procedural schedule, citing recent Staff attrition and a related lack of access to engineering expertise as the basis for its request.

In response to the assented to request, on August 20, 2021, the Commission granted a tailored extension of the procedural schedule, and directed the parties to file a proposed revised procedural schedule with the Commission by September 17, 2021.

After extensive internal review and consultation with the Attorney General's Office, on September 16, 2021, Energy issued a request for proposals (RFP) for electric distribution system engineering and planning expertise. The timeline defined within the RFP for proposal review, contractor selection, and contract execution provides for a tentative contract effective date of November 22, 2021.

In light of that tentative contract effective date, the possibility that the actual contract effective date may be delayed, and the need to on-board any electric distribution system planning and engineering consultant that may be chosen, Energy proposes, with the agreement of the parties, a schedule that reanimates this proceeding in January 2022.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Relatedly, the Commission held a hearing in DE 20-002 regarding Unital's 2020 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan (LCIRP) on January 22, 2021. A Commission decision on the settlement in that case would allow the parties to better understand the Commission's expectations for what satisfies RSA 378:37-:40, providing greater certainty for the parties as they navigate all remaining near-term electric LCIRP proceedings. The same is true for Order No. 26,358, which provided guidance relating to near-term electric LCIRPs, and was suspended by Secretarial Letter on July 22, 2020 pending Commission consideration of issues raised in a motion for rehearing of that Order. To the extent the Commission can provide greater certainty on such issues prior to the reanimation of this procedural schedule, it would be greatly appreciated.

The parties have agreed to recommend the following procedural schedule to the Commission:

<b>Action or Event</b>	<b>Date or Deadline</b>
Set 3 Data Requests to Eversource	January 18, 2022
Eversource Responses to Set 3 Data Requests	February 1, 2022
Set 4 Data Requests to Eversource	February 18, 2022
Eversource Responses to Set 4 Data Requests	March 4, 2022
Technical Session	March 15, 2022
Set 5 Data Requests to Eversource	March 22, 2022
Eversource Responses to Set 5 Data Requests	April 5, 2022
Set 6 Data Requests to Eversource	April 22, 2022
Eversource Responses to Set 6 Data Requests	May 6, 2022
Technical Session	May 17, 2022
Energy/OCA/Intervenor Testimony	June 28, 2022
Data Requests to Division/OCA/Intervenors	July 8, 2022
Division/OCA/Intervenor Responses to Data Requests	July 22, 2022
Technical Session/Settlement Conference	July 27, 2022
Technical Session/Settlement Conference	July 29, 2022
Hearing Date Range	Two full days during the first two weeks of September 2022

Energy, on behalf of the parties, respectfully requests that the Commission approve the proposed procedural schedule for this proceeding.

I certify that a copy of this letter will be served electronically on the parties on the service list at the same time it is filed with the Commission.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Brian D. Buckley*

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