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March 17, 2022

Via Electronic Mail Only

Daniel C. Goldner, Chair
Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: DE 20-161 Eversource Energy 2020 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan
Parties' Proposed Amended Procedural Schedule

Dear Chair Goldner:

Under the current procedural schedule, the Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource Energy) was scheduled to provide data request responses to Data Set 4 on March 4, 2022 but was not able to file all of them by the deadline. *See* NH Admin R. Puc 202.04 (b). Thereafter, outstanding responses were provided on various dates through March 11, including voluminous attachments provided on March 11, one business day before a scheduled technical session. Eversource Energy explained that the retirement of certain staff and some administrative challenges resulted in delay.

It followed that there was insufficient time for the Department of Energy (DOE) to hold a substantive technical session on March 15, 2022. Instead, the parties met and discussed how best to move forward, and the need for additional time to conduct necessary follow-up discovery and to develop the record. Therefore, Eversource Energy, DOE, and the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) (collectively "the Parties") jointly ask the Commission to approve a new procedural schedule and to advance the currently scheduled hearing date by approximately four weeks.

If the proposed procedural schedule is not approved, the DOE will have to forego discussing responses to DOE Data Set 4, and issuing Data Set 5 will be compromised, as the existing procedural schedule is tight. These factors support the Parties' request for a revised procedural schedule. *See* Puc 202.04. The new procedural schedule also includes an opportunity for Eversource Energy to file rebuttal testimony, in between two technical sessions/settlement conferences. While ideally rebuttal testimony will not be necessary, it is preferable to have it filed well in advance of hearing, and in advance of the final technical session.

With regard to the Parties' proposed enlargement of time for hearing (from early September to early October), doing so will give the Parties the opportunity to develop discovery and the record, and hold the aforementioned technical sessions/settlement conferences. This promotes the orderly and efficient conduct of the proceeding. *See* Puc 203.13

The Parties' proposed amended procedural schedule is as follows:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date and Time</u>
Data Response Set 4 from Eversource Energy	March 11, 2022 (de facto)
Technical Session	April 1, 2022 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
DRS to Eversource Set 5	April 15, 2022,
DR Responses from Eversource Set 5	April 27, 2022
DRs to Eversource Set 6	May 16, 2022,
DR Responses from Eversource Set 6	May 27, 2022
Technical Session	June 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
DOE/OCA/Intervenor Testimony	July 25, 2022
DRs to DOE/OCA/Intervenor	August 2, 2022
Data Responses from DOE/OCA/Intervenor	August 16, 2022
Technical Session/Settlement	August 26, 2022 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Eversource Rebuttal Testimony (if necessary)	September 8, 2022
Technical Session/Settlement	September 14, 2022 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Hearing Date	During the first two weeks in October (but not October 4, 6 or 11 due to Parties' schedule conflicts, including other hearings or professional commitments)

The Parties respectfully request that, consistent with Puc 202.04 and Puc 203.13, the Commission approve this proposed procedural schedule, and enlarge the hearing date to early October 2022. Counsel for Eversource Energy and OCA have authorized counsel for DOE to submit this request on behalf of the Parties.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer

Mary E. Schwarzer
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner

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