

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
before the
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy; Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.; Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty; New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc.

DE 21-XXX

**JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM BUDGETS**

Pursuant to New Hampshire Code Admin. Rules Puc 202.01(a) and Puc 203.06, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy; Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.; Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty; and New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (collectively the “NH Electric Utilities”) hereby petition for the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to approve the NH Electric Utilities’ budgets for the 2021-2022 program year for the low-income Electric Assistance Program (“EAP”). In support of this Petition, the NH Electric Utilities state the following:

1. Pursuant to Commission Order 23, 980 (May 30, 2002), no later than 60 days before the start of each program year, the NH Electric Utilities are to file their respective proposed EAP budgets for the upcoming year, which begins October 1. Historically, after the NH Electric Utilities’ proposed budgets were submitted to a designated email address that was monitored by Commission staff, the Commission would, on its own motion, open a docket to review and approve those budgets. The purpose of the dockets is for the Commission “to review the budgets for administering the statewide low income electric assistance program (EAP) as required by prior orders of the Commission.” Order No. 26,405 (September 18, 2020) at 1.

2. Once the docket had been opened, Commission Staff (now Department of Energy (“DOE”) staff) would provide a recommendation as to whether the Commission should approve the budgets, and the Commission would then issue an order prior to the start of the program year approving those budgets. (*Id.*) The dockets pertaining to the EAP budgets are not typically contested matters, but do require the Commission’s approval.

3. The proposed 2021-2022 EAP budgets have been filed by the NH Electric Utilities but, as of the date of this submission, no docket has yet been opened. In that the program year commences on October 1, 2021, only days from this filing, and that the Commission has not opened a docket on its own motion, the NH Electric Utilities are, by this Petition, requesting that the Commission open a docket for approval of the 2021-2022 EAP program budgets.

4. As it is unknown within which agency the filed proposed EAP budgets are currently located, included with this Petition are the budgets that were submitted with the Commission a few months ago consistent with prior practice. The NH Electric Utilities request that the Commission expeditiously review and approve the proposed budgets to assure continued and consistent delivery of the EAP program benefits.

WHEREFORE, based upon the above, the NH Electric Utilities respectfully request that the Commission:

1. Open a new docket to review the 2021-2022 budgets submitted to the Commission for administering the statewide low-income EAP;
2. Approve on an expedited basis the NH Electric Utilities' EAP budgets for the 2021-2022 program year as close as possible to the October 1 program year start date; and
3. Order such further relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully,

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy;
Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.; Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric)
Corp. d/b/a Liberty; New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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By:

Jessica A. Chiavara, Counsel
Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource
Energy
o/b/o the NH Electric Utilities
780 N. Commercial St.
Manchester, NH 03101
315-313-3264
Jessica.chiavara@eversource.com