

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

**DE 17-196**

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

**Petition for Continuation of Reliability Enhancement Program**

**ORDER OF NOTICE**

On December 15, 2017, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource or “the Company”) filed a petition to continue its Reliability Enhancement Program (REP) for calendar year 2018. Eversource requested approval of its petition for effect February 1, 2018 because funding for the REP expired on December 31, 2017.

The REP was initially established as part of the Company’s 2006 rate case to provide targeted funding for activities that improve the reliability of Eversource’s distribution system, and has continued since that time. On May 1, 2017, Eversource filed a motion to continue the REP for 24 months beginning on July 1, 2017. An amended filing was made by Eversource on June 2 following discussions with Staff and the OCA. On June 28, the Commission issued Order No. 26,034 approving the continuation of the REP from July 1 through December 31, 2017 and instructing Eversource to work with Staff and the OCA on a plan for calendar year 2018. Eversource made the instant filing in response to the Commission’s directive.

Eversource proposes an REP capital budget of \$9 million for 2018. The plan calls for investing \$3 million in circuit tie projects in the towns of Swanzey and Hinsdale, two circuits that have a history of reliability problems. The Company plans to invest the remaining \$4 million in capital expenditures to complete approximately 100 miles of enhanced tree trimming and \$2 million allocated for removal of hazardous trees. For 2018, Eversource also plans to

continue its “troubleshooter” program. The program consists of 18 troubleshooter positions, divided into three, six-person teams providing 24 hour coverage in the areas of Bedford, Derry, Hooksett and Nashua. This program also has two supervisors. According to Eversource, for the twelve months ending September 2017, 58 percent of funding for the program was obtained through ratepayer funding of the REP, while the remaining 42 percent of funding came from Eversource’s base rates. In addition to continuing the troubleshooter program, Eversource plans to continue REP operations and maintenance (O&M) activities at a level of \$2.35 million.

To continue the REP program for 2018, Eversource estimated an average increase in REP distribution rates of 0.021 cents per kilowatt hour for all customers. The calculation is based on the assumption by Eversource that rates would go into effect February 1, 2018. Although Eversource did not propose an effective date of the rate increase, it asked that the Commission consider its petition as soon as possible.

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 <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2017/17-196.html>.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether the REP plan for 2018 filed by Eversource is reasonable and designed to improve system reliability for the benefit of customers; whether the proposed budget for capital and O&M REP spending is reasonable; and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable as required by RSA 378:5 and RSA 378:7.

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**

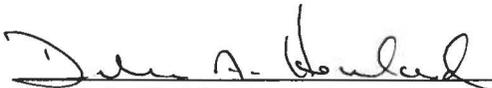
**ORDERED**, that a hearing, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, be held before the Commission located at 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, N.H. on January 26, 2018; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the Executive Director shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than January 10, 2018 on the Commission's website upon its issuance; 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 January 22, 2018, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by 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 January 26, 2018.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this ninth day of January, 2018.

  
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.