

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 18-057

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY
AND LIBERTY UTILITIES (GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC) CORP.
d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES**

Joint Petition for Recovery of Costs of EAP Changes

ORDER OF NOTICE

On May 17, 2019, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) and Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed a joint petition to recover costs, which they incurred to change their respective billing systems pursuant to Order No. 26,132 (May 4, 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 <http://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2018/18-057.html>.

In Order No. 26,132, the Commission approved a change to the design of the Electric Assistance Program (EAP), a program which provides discounts on electric bills to income-eligible residential customers of Eversource, Liberty, Unitil Energy Systems, Inc., and the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (together, "the Utilities"). The design change, effective for bills rendered on or after October 1, 2018, requires the Utilities to apply the EAP discount to the cost of energy purchased by EAP-eligible customers from competitive energy suppliers in addition to the delivery portion of their bills. Previously, the Utilities applied the EAP discount only to the delivery charges billed to those customers. As a result of the design change, the Utilities' application of the EAP discount to the bills of customers choosing

competitive supply became consistent with the Utilities' application of the discount to customers who obtained default energy service through their utility.

The Commission found that the benefits of the design change to the EAP should outweigh the burden on the Utilities, such as the need to invest in information technology upgrades. It ordered the Utilities to bear the costs of implementing the changes to their billing systems in the first instance. However, the Commission permitted the Utilities to file a request to recover these costs, which would be subject to a prudency review by the Commission. In testimony filed in support of the joint petition, Eversource stated that its total cost of implementing the billing system changes was \$70,345. According to Liberty, its total cost was \$195,666.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether Eversource's and Liberty's respective costs are prudent, reasonable, and incremental (i.e., incurred solely for the purpose of complying with Order No. 26,132). 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 Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 23, 2019, 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

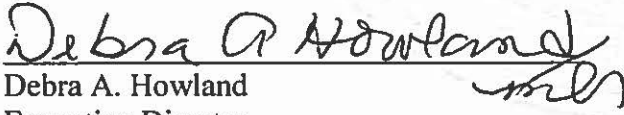
FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Eversource, Liberty, the Staff of the Commission, and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Eversource and Liberty shall jointly notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 9, 2019, 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 October 18, 2019; 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, Liberty, and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 18, 2019, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 23, 2019.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-third day of August, 2019.


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.

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