

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 19-061

**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 to Alter Franchise Areas in Windham, New Hampshire

Order *Nisi* Approving Franchise Boundary Change

ORDER NO. 26,249

May 8, 2019

This order authorizes Eversource and Liberty to modify their franchise boundary in the Town of Windham, New Hampshire. The boundary modification will allow Eversource to provide electric service to the entirety of the MidTrail Crossing and Lilac Ridge Subdivisions. The order is being issued on a *nisi* basis to ensure that all interested parties receive notice and have the opportunity to comment or request a hearing before the order becomes effective.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On March 26, 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 alter their franchise areas in Windham. The petition included maps delineating the proposed service territories.

In a memorandum dated April 26, 2019, Commission Staff (Staff) recommended the approval of the franchise boundary change. The joint petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted at <http://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2019/19-061.html>.

II. SUMMARY OF PETITION AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Eversource and Liberty both provide services to portions of Windham. GBQ Homes is a real estate development company that plans to reconfigure its MidTrail Crossing subdivision and build new homes in its Lilac Ridge subdivision. Most, but not all, of the proposed development area is within Eversource's service territory. GBQ Homes wishes to have Eversource provide electric service to the entirety of the two subdivisions. Eversource and Liberty propose adjusting their franchise border to allow Eversource to provide services as requested.

Staff noted that due to the specific physical location of the proposed developments, extending electric utility service from Eversource facilities would be substantially less costly than extending service from Liberty facilities. Accordingly, Staff recommended that the Commission find that the proposed franchise alteration is in the public good and grant the relief requested in the petition.

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

RSA 374:22, I, provides that no person or business entity may commence business as a public utility in New Hampshire or exercise any right or privilege under any franchise without first obtaining the Commission's approval. The Commission may approve a franchise request after due hearing, or without a hearing when all interested parties are in agreement, if it finds the franchise would be for the public good. RSA 374:26.

We have reviewed Eversource's and Liberty's joint petition, as well as Staff's recommendation. The extension of electric utility distribution services from Eversource's nearby facilities is substantially less costly than the construction that would be required to bring service from Liberty's existing facilities to the area. We find that it is in the public good to include the

entirety of the MidTrail Crossing and Lilac Ridge subdivisions within Eversource's service territory. GBQ Homes, Eversource, and Liberty, all agree to the proposed franchise area adjustment. Accordingly, we approve the joint petition on a *nisi* basis to provide any interested party the opportunity to submit comments or request a hearing. We also direct Eversource and Liberty to file updated franchise maps noting the approved change.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, that subject to the effective date below, the joint petition of Eversource and Liberty to adjust their franchise territories in Windham, New Hampshire, is hereby GRANTED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Eversource shall cause a summary of this order *nisi*, issued concurrently with this order, to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted, such publication to be no later than May 17, 2019, and to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before June 4, 2019; and it is


FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this Order *Nisi* be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than May 28, 2019, for the Commission's consideration; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than June 4, 2019, and it is

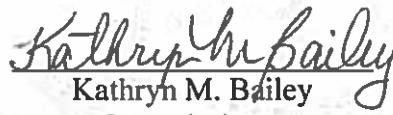
FURTHER ORDERED, that this order *nisi* shall be effective June 7, 2019, unless Eversource fails to satisfy the publication obligations set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Eversource and Liberty shall file updated franchise maps with the Commission, in accordance with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603, noting the approved change, annotated with this order and the effective date herein, within 30 days of the effective date of this order, unless a supplemental order is issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighth day of May, 2019.



Martin P. Honigberg
Chairman

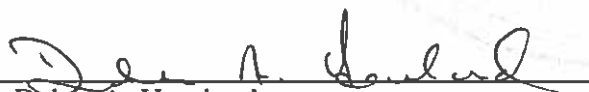


Kathryn M. Bailey
Commissioner



Michael S. Giaimo
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Attested by:



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