

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
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June 11, 2021

Re: DE 17-136, Electric and Gas Utilities
2018-2020 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan
Approving Staff Recommendation Dated May 11, 2021

To the Parties:

On February 25, 2021, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a 2020 program funding update and request for the Commission to reverse the transfer of \$3,088,661 from Eversource's commercial and industrial (C&I) sector budget to its energy efficiency residential sector budget that the Commission approved in its secretarial letter dated December 22, 2020. Commission Staff (Staff) filed a recommendation on May 11, 2021.

Section 4.3 of the 2018-2020 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan (2018-2020 EE Plan), approved by the Commission in Order No. 26,095 (January 2, 2018), requires New Hampshire utilities to notify the Commission if a program's actual expenditures are forecasted to exceed 120 percent of its budget. Eversource stated that, based on its current calculations, two programs will exceed 120 percent of their planned 2020 budgets: the small business programs; and the C&I demand response pilot program.


In addition, Section 4.3 of the 2018-2020 EE Plan prohibits the transfer of funds between the residential and C&I sectors without Commission approval. According to Eversource, it requested the Commission's authorization to transfer of \$3,088,661 from its C&I sector to its residential sector based on spending forecasts provided in November 2020. Eversource reported, however, that fewer residential projects than anticipated were completed through the end of 2020, so this transfer was unnecessary. Eversource requested the Commission to reverse its approval of the transfer and confirm the original residential and C&I sector budgets.

When Staff compared Eversource's actual anticipated 2020 expenditures with the updated Energy Efficiency Plan budgets approved by the Commission in Order No. 26,323 (December 31, 2019) and the revised budget that the Commission approved on December 22, Staff found that the original budgets were more in line with the projected spending for 2020. Staff recommended that the Commission's December 22 authorized transfer of funds to the residential sector budget be reversed,

and that those funds be used within the C&I sector to cover overspent programs. Yet with regard to the C&I demand response pilot program, Staff recommended limiting the budgetary amount that can be used for performance incentive calculation purposes to 120 percent of the original budget or \$456,224, because of the limited nature of a pilot program.

The Commission has reviewed Eversource's February 25 filing and Staff's May 11 recommendation. Based on Staff's recommendation, the Commission has approved Eversource's request to vacate the transfer of \$3,088,661 from its C&I sector budget to its residential sector budget. Eversource may use that amount to cover overspent C&I programs. The Commission has confirmed that the original budgets approved in Order No. 26,323 are now in effect and will remain in effect unless subsequently amended by the Commission. However, when calculating the overall program spending for the purposes of determining the performance incentive, the value used for the C&I demand response pilot program spending shall be limited to no more than 120 percent of the original budget (or no more than \$456,224). To the extent this affects the performance incentive calculation report filed by Eversource on June 1, 2021, Eversource shall file a revised report.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Service List (Electronically)
Docket File

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 17-136

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