

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

**Public Service Company of New Hampshire
d/b/a Eversource Energy
Alternate Default Energy Service Rate**

Docket No. DE 11-216

**Technical Statement of
Christopher J. Goulding**

March 31, 2016

A. Purpose of Technical Statement

The purpose of this Technical Statement is to provide the Commission with background and supportive information as part of the request of Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy's ("PSNH") that its Alternate Default Energy Service ("ADE") rate pilot program be extended for 12 months, or until such time as PSNH has transitioned to a competitive solicitation for its default service needs consistent with the 2015 Public Service Company of New Hampshire Restructuring and Rate Stabilization Agreement (the "2015 Agreement") presently under review in Docket Nos. DE 11-250 and 14-238.

B. Background

Rate ADE was initially authorized by the Commission as a 36-month pilot program in Order No. 25,488 (April 8, 2013), when the Commission approved a partial settlement agreement between the Company, the Commission Staff ("Staff") and the Office of Consumer Advocate ("OCA"). The pilot for Rate ADE became effective on July 1, 2013. Originally established as an annual rate, an amendment to the rate was approved in Order No. 25,739 (December 12, 2014), which effectively made Rate ADE a monthly rate. Despite the modifications made to Rate ADE, the end date for the term of the pilot remains the same, June 2016. The historical performance of the monthly data pertaining to Rate ADE since the December 2014 modification has been provided as Exhibit CJG-1. As a result of the Rate ADE change to a monthly rate, cost shifts from monthly Energy Services users to annual Energy Service users has been mitigated. For the 14 month period of January 2015 through February 2016 rate ADE as currently designed has resulted in a contribution to fixed energy service cost of approximately \$200,000. Rate ADE is achieving the goals it was intended to achieve.

Relevant to this submission, the partial settlement approved in Order No. 25,488, at Section 2.4.3, required that "At least 3 months prior to the end of the pilot period, PSNH shall file a request to extend, modify or terminate Rate ADE and shall include information about the historical performance of Rate ADE and support for the requested relief." PSNH is making this submission in compliance with the partial settlement and requests that the Commission extend Rate ADE as described below.

C. Request to Extend Rate ADE

Eversource is requesting that Rate ADE remain in effect and that it continue to be calculated and administered in the manner approved in Order No. 25,739. This extension will allow sufficient time to determine whether PSNH will transition to a competitive solicitation for its default service needs as a result of the 2015 Agreement, or, in the event the 2015 Agreement is not approved, to determine if a permanent solution can be developed, which may include making Rate ADE permanent. Eversource has been in contact with the OCA and Staff and both have offered their support for the extension of the Rate ADE Pilot program as currently designed.