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2	STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE	
3	PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	
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5	July 22, 2021 - 9:12 a.m.	
6	[Remote Hearing conducted via Webex]	
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9	RE: DE 21-117 EVERSOURCE ENERGY	
10	Petition for Adjustment to 2021-2022 Stranded Cost Recovery Charge	
11	(Hearing)	
12		
13	PRESENT: Chairwoman Dianne H. Martin, Presiding Commissioner Daniel C. Goldner	
14	Doreen Borden, Clerk	
15	Corrine Lemay, PUC Remote Hearing Host	
16	APPEARANCES: Reptg. Eversource Energy Jessica A. Chiavara, Esq.	
17	Reptg. N.H. Dept. of Energy:	
18	David K. Wiesner, Esq.	
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21	Court Reporter: Susan J. Robidas, NH LCR No. 44	
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23	of total.	
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2 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: We're here 3 morning in Docket DE 21-117, which is	
morning in Docket DE 21-117, which is	the
	the
4 Eversource's Petition for Adjustment to	
5 Stranded Cost Recovery Charge for the pe	eriod
6 beginning August 1, 2021.	
7 My name is Dianne Martin, and	l I am
8 the Chairwoman of the Public Utilities	
9 Commission.	
Commissioner Goldner, would you	ou ou
like to introduce yourself?	
COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Hi,	
everyone. Dan Goldner, Commissioner.	
CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right	: .
Let's take appearances, starting with Ma	ls.
Chiavara.	
MS. CHIAVARA: Good morning,	
Chairwoman and Commissioner Goldner. Jo	Tessica
Chiavara, here on behalf of Public Serv	rice
Company of New Hampshire, doing busines	s as
Eversource Energy. And today I have wi	th me
Erica Menard.	
CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right	. And
for the Department of Energy.	

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1	MR. WIESNER: Yes. Good morning,
2	Commissioners. Dave Wiesner, representing
3	the Department of Energy. With me in the
4	attendee pool is Steve Eckberg, electric
5	analyst with the Department's Regulatory
6	Support Division.
7	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Welcome in your
8	new capacity.
9	MR. WIESNER: Thank you. Good to
10	be here.
11	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right. I
12	have Exhibit 1 prefiled and premarked.
13	Anything else related to exhibits or other
14	preliminary matters?
15	[No verbal response]
16	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Seeing
17	none, let's have the witness sworn in. Ms.
18	Menard has been with us almost every day for
19	a week.
20	WITNESS MENARD: Looking forward to
21	the end of the day.
22	(WHEREUPON, ERICA MENARD was duly sworn
23	and cautioned by the Court Reporter.)
24	ERICA MENARD, SWORN

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5 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right, Ms. 1 2 Chiavara. MS. CHIAVARA: 3 Thank you. DIRECT EXAMINATION 4 BY MS. CHIAVARA: 5 Ms. Menard, can we begin with stating your 6 7 name, title and responsibilities in your role 8 at Eversource. My name is Erica Menard. I'm the manager of 9 Α. 10 revenue requirements for New Hampshire, and 11 in that capacity I am responsible for the revenue requirement calculations and rates 12 associated with various rate filings that are 13 14 presented before this Commission, including 15 transmission cost adjustment mechanism, 16 stranded cost, energy service, distribution 17 rates, regulatory reconciliation adjustment mechanism, and systems benefit charge. 18 19 Q. And have you previously testified before this Commission? 20 21 Α. Yes, I have. 22 Did you file testimony as part of the Q. 23 materials on June 17th, 2021? Yes, I did. 24 Α.

- And was that testimony prepared by you or at 1 Q. your direction? 2
- Yes, it was. 3 Α.

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- Do you have any changes or updates to make to 4 0. that testimony at this time? 5
 - There's one minor edit I would like to Α. read into the record on Bates Page 9. Sorry. Red Bates 11, on Line 11, the question asks, "What are the major reasons for the increase in the SCRC rate?" That should read, "What are the major reasons for the decrease in the SCRC rate." There's no impact to the rate calculations themselves. It was just an editing mistake.

And on Bates page -- red Bates Page 43, in the attachment Source References, there's a reference to Attachment ELM-3, Page 1 -sorry. Attachment ELM-3, Page 1 references Page 2, but the line numbers don't correspond with those on the actual Page 2, so it's just a reference error on that page. The actual calculations are correct. That's all I have.

Q. Okay. Great. Thank you.

Do you adopt this as your testimony

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1 today?

- A. Yes, I do.
- Q. Thank you. So to begin with, could you
 explain what the purpose of the stranded
 recovery cost charge, or the SCRC, serves,
 and also how it was created?
 - A. Yes. So at a high level -- I know all of the information is provided in testimony, but I just wanted to give kind of an overview to begin the hearing.

The SCRC rate was established at the time of restructuring to recover certain stranded asset costs. And this is Eversource's only fully non-bypassable rate that gets applied to all customers and is not avoided by net metering customers. The petition outline has a very nice overview and summary of the history of the SCRC rate, so I won't go into detail here, but I just did want to point that out in case you wanted to go back and look at the history of the rate and the various changes over time that have occurred that have impacted this rate mechanism.

Q. Thank you. Could you also provide a little bit of detail as to the component parts of the SCRC and why it's structured the way that it is.

A. Yes. So the SCRC has -- historically it was just made up of what was called "Part 1, 2 and 3 costs." And there's very specific language as to what gets recovered in each one of those parts. But in general terms, Part 1 recovers the costs of any rate reduction bonds that the Company has, you know, securitized and has in effect. And those bonds had been paid off some years ago; however, with the recent generation divestiture, we have a new series of rate reduction bonds that are recovered through the Part 1 costs.

Then we have Part 2 costs, which recovers ongoing stranded cost primarily related to over-market energy capacity market purchases related to independent power producers. And there are two power purchase agreements specifically that are recovered through the stranded cost. One is the Berlin

Biopower, or Burgess Biopower, and then the second is Lempster Wind. So those are recovered through Part 2.

And then there's Part 3, although those were related to amortization of some non-securitized costs which were fully recovered back in 2006 and therefore are not included anymore in this rate.

The SCRC rate for those Part 1, 2 -essentially Part 1 and 2 costs, they're very
much tied to the 2015 Generation Divestiture
Settlement Agreement. And in that settlement
there is a prescribed set of allocation of
how costs will be allocated to various rate
classes. And so any of the costs and
(over)/under-recoveries that are collected in
Parts 1 and 2 are allocated to those rate
classes according to the percentages that
were defined in that settlement agreement.

On top of the Part 1 and Part 2 costs,
we have several other components which we
loosely term "adders." And these are
recovered differently than the Parts 1 and 2
costs. These are recovered on an equal

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cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis. And there are four components that we call "adders." The first is a RGGI refund, which refunds Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative proceeds that are received. And those rebates are refunded -- or those proceeds are refunded to customers through this RGGI refund component.

The second is related to Chapter 340 costs. Those collect costs that are related to the legislative extension of the \$100 million cap for the Burgess Biopower Purchase Power Agreement. That was extended for a three-year period. So any costs over that \$100 million cap, any over-market costs are collected through this Chapter 340 component.

The third piece is an environmental remediation component, and those are costs associated with former manufactured gas plants. And there are a handful of manufactured gas plant sites that have monitoring and environmental remediation commitments. And as part of the most recent rate case, the determination was to move those costs that had been deferred into the

stranded cost rate, and recover the amount that had been deferred, also in addition to timely recovery of any new environmental remediation costs.

And the final component is recovery of the purchase of energy from net metering customers. And these are all tied to very specific dockets and decisions and orders that have occurred over the years. And again, it's all outlined in testimony, but I just wanted to give you kind of a high-level overview of the components of the SCRC.

Q. Thank you very much.

So could you please explain what the Company is requesting of the Commission in this docket; and specifically, what is the purpose for requesting an August adjustment to the SCRC?

A. So on June 17th, 2021, the Company submitted a petition to adjust SCRC rates effective August 1st. We submitted testimony and exhibits supporting the rate calculation.

This rate is established so that it's set on an annual basis in February and then it's

updated in August. So this is the August mid-year update to the SCRC rate. There's certain components or costs within Part 2 that we typically don't forecast or know about, know what the actual amounts are when we set the rate. And so in the August update, there are opportunities to update any costs that have come in over the past six months and then adjust the rates for the remaining back half of the year.

There are times in the past where the Company files a preliminary rate and then closer to hearing will file an update to that rate. And this is mainly due to, because as I said earlier, the Part 1 of the SCRC rate is tied to our RRB bonds and RRB rates. So the rate that is set is filed at least twice a year. There's a rate filing that is made on January 15th and then another one on July 15th. And those rate filings set the RRB rate in which we collect the costs to pay off the -- or pay down the principal payments and interest payments for the RRB rate.

In this particular rate, we did not have

an update in July. The rates that were set in January for the RRB rates had not changed, so we didn't need to provide an update in July as we have done in the past.

So we made the initial filing in June. We had a virtual technical session with DOE, former Staff. And aside from the minor changes I identified earlier, there were no changes or updates needed in July for this rate.

All right. Thank you. 0.

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Could you highlight certain components of the SCRC rate that are contained in the attachments to Exhibit 1.

Yes. So there are 12 attachments that are Α. provided with the prefiled testimony. Attachment 1 and 2 -- they're called "ELM-1" and "ELM-2" -- contain actual and forecasted SCRC rate calculations for the Part 1 and Part 2 costs. Actual costs are through May of 2021 and then forecasted for the remainder of the rate period.

> Attachments ELM-3 and 4 contain actual and forecasted RGGI rebate calculations for

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the year; again, actuals through the time period we have actuals and forecasted for the remaining time period.

Attachments ELM-5 and 6 contain actual and forecasted Chapter 340 adder costs related to the Burgess PPA costs.

Attachment ELM-7 contains actual and forecasted environmental remediation costs. And there's only one for this time period, for this rate filing, because the environmental remediation adder just went into effect with this rate filing. So there's not as much history as some of the others, the other adders.

Attachments ELM-8 and 9 contain forecasted and actual net metering costs associated with the purchase of energy from net metering facilities.

Attachment ELM-10 contains the rate calculations; the residential Rate R customer bill impact and comparisons; contains the average percent change in rates per customer class. This customer bill impact was developed as of June 17th, and at that time

there was -- there are five rates that are proposed to change by August 1st. At the time we filed on June 17th, only four of those rates were filed and proposed at the So there was -- the TCAM rate was not time. known at that time. So that rate had not been updated when we filed this back in June. However, since then, in early July, the TCAM rate had been -- has been filed and is the subject of the hearing today. And a full list of all rate changes is provided in that docket with the similar exhibit.

Also in Attachment ELM-10 is how we take an average rate that's calculated by customer class and convert it into a tariff rate. There's a factor that's calculated and then applied to convert it to a tariff rate.

Attachment ELM-11 contains the red-lined tariff reflecting any of the proposed changes.

And then finally, ELM-12 is the latest RRB Advice Letter filing that establishes the RRB rates that are part of Part 1 in this filing.

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- 1 Q. Thank you. Now, some of the attachments that
 2 that you just went through, a few of them
 3 seem very similar to one another, perhaps to
 4 the point where they might be mistaken for
 5 duplicate attachments. But could you use an
 6 example of this to clarify why certain
 7 exhibits look so similar.
- For example, if you were to look 8 Attachments ELM-1 and 2, the format looks 9 exactly the same, but the time periods are 10 11 different. So, for example, on ELM-2, that contains the actuals for the time period 12 February 2020 through January 2021, and ELM-1 13 14 contains actuals for February 2021 through 15 May 2021 and then estimates for June 2021 16 through January 2022.
 - Q. Thank you for that clarification.

Now, could you please take us through the proposed adjustment to each rate class from the currently existing SCRC rates.

A. Yes. As is shown in Exhibit 1 on red

Bates 1, you can see the comparison of the

current rates to the proposed rates. And I

can just read them so we have them into the

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record. And these all include -- these are all-inclusive and include all of the refunds and adders.

For the Rate Class R, the average rate is proposed to change from 1.431 to .889 cents per kilowatt hour; for Rate Class R -excuse me -- G, the proposed rate changes from 1.476 to .990 cents per kilowatt hour; for Rate Class GV, the proposed rate changes from 1.245 to .821 cents per kilowatt hour; for Rate Class LG, the proposed rate changes from .677 to .443 cents per kilowatt hour; and finally, for Rate Class OL and EOL, the proposed rate changes from point -- excuse me -- 1.976 to .552 cents per kilowatt hour.

Thank you. Now turning for a moment to the RGGI refund adder. Can you explain briefly what the overall effect of the RGGI refund adder is, and could you clarify why there's cost language that's used to refer to the RGGI rebate, since it is a rebate? cost language that I'm referring to is in Attachment ELM-3.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Could you give

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1 us the Bates page, please.

WITNESS MENARD: I am looking for that.

MS. CHIAVARA: I will look for it as well. Red Bates Page 43 and 44.

A. Yes. So the RGGI rebate is -- it's a refund of the RGGI proceeds for any amounts over the first dollar. The first dollar goes to the CORE Energy Efficiency Programs. Anything beyond that goes back to customers through the SCRC rate.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:

And the RGGI refund recovers any refund proceeds -- or any RGGI proceeds plus any (over)/under-recoveries from when the rate was set versus how the actual rebates are flowing back to customers. And so we call them RGGI costs, but it's really the proceeds, the refund of the proceeds.

The number is a negative number, which means that there's money going back to customers; it's a credit. So in this particular rate filing, the credit is a higher credit, meaning more money is going

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Thank you.

- back to customers compared to the current rate. So we go from a credit of .198 cents to a credit of .279. It gets a little confusing, so that's why we just wanted to -it's a higher credit.
 - Q. Okay. Thank you for clarifying that.

Now, the Company is requesting a proposed SCRC rate that would result in a decrease to the current SCRC rate. Referring to Exhibit 1 on -- let me verify this -- red Bates Page 10 and 11, I believe, could you explain a bit about the major reasons for the decrease in the SCRC rate that's being proposed as compared to the current rates that are already in effect.

- 16 A. Yes. Just to clarify, it's red Bates 12.
- 17 Q. Sorry. Thank you.

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A. And there's a table which, at a high level, tries to describe the reasons for the increase or decrease by the various components within Parts 1 and 2 in comparison to how revenues are coming in. Like I had said earlier, the August rate update filing is essentially a mid-year true-up. So for a

handful of cost components within Part 2, where we did not have a forecast at the time that the February rate was set, any new costs or credits are refunded back to customers through the August rate update.

So in general, there was a \$13.6 million decrease in Parts 1 and 2 costs compared to the rates set in February. And it's essentially made up of four major items.

There's about \$6 million due to lower what we call "residual generation O&M," and this is related to any abatements received from property taxes, as well as pension credits related to lower projected pension costs for divested generation employees.

There's about \$3.8 million lower costs related to above-market IPP and PPA costs due to a revised forecast for the IPPs.

There's about \$2.6 million related to REC sales proceeds. As we sell RECs that are not needed for compliance, those proceeds are credited back to customers through Part 2.

And finally, about one and a half million dollars is related to the higher

over-recovery for the January 31, 2021 period. At the time the February rate was filed, there were two months that were unknown. And so as the months are known, those are layered in and can change the (over)/under-recovery position as of that time period.

So those are kind of the major reasons for the change in Parts 1 and 2. Overall, revenues for Parts 1 and 2 are lower, and that's by design. There was an over-recovery that was part of the February rate update, so that there was a rate decrease in February; therefore, revenues are going to be lower going forward.

As far as the other components are concerned, the RGGI rebate was higher by \$3.1 million. The RGGI proceeds came in higher than we had projected.

And then there are some minor changes in the other components related to Chapter 340 environmental and net metering costs.

Q. Great. Thank you.

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I know previously you provided a

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1		high-level summary of Attachment ELM-10.	
2		Could you provide in a bit more detail what's	
3		contained in that attachment.	
4	A.	Yes. So as I said earlier, we take the	
5		average rate, and that's calculated and	
6		converted that into a tariff rate. And	
7		that's what is shown on red Bates Pages 57	
8		through 59. It's just the calculation of the	
9		SCRC rate adjustment factor and the	
10		application to each of the tariff classes.	
11		On red Bates Pages 60 and 61 is a	
12		comparison of the proposed rate to go into	
13		effect August 1st compared to the current	
14		rate in effect as of February 1st, and it	
15		itemizes the percent changes by component and	
16		a percent change as a percent of the total	
17		bill.	
18		So as I said earlier, there are, you	
19		know, numerous rate changes that will be	
20		occurring in August. But in terms of the	
21		subject of this hearing, we're talking about	
22		the stranded cost recovery charge, which is	
23		Column F, Lines 34, 49 and 64 on	

attachment -- on red Bates 60 and 61.

Bates 61 compares the proposed rate for August 1st compared to the August rate from one year ago.

And then, finally, Bates Pages 62 and 63 in red just express the rate changes as a percentage of total revenue for each class, with and without energy service.

Q. Thank you very much.

Turning to Attachment ELM-11, which appears on red Bates Pages 64 through 66, can you take us through that attachment, please?

- A. Yes. As I said previously, this is the -these are the pages from the tariff. We
 provide a clean and red-lined version so you
 can see the changes that are proposed with
 this rate. And then if we were to look at
 the clean version, red Bates 64, it describes
 what the SCRC rate is and also the various
 components on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour
 basis.
- Q. Thank you.

And then, finally, could you just summarize or reiterate what Eversource's request is in terms of what we're asking from

- 1 the Commission to approve here today.
- 2 A. Yes. The Company is requesting the
- 3 Commission review and approve the updated
- 4 average SCRC rates -- that includes the RGGI
- 5 rebate, the Chapter 340 adder, the
- environmental remediation adder, and the net
- 7 metering adder -- for effect on August 1st.
- 8 Q. And is it the Company's position that the
- 9 updated SCRC rates are just and reasonable?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Thank you very much, Ms. Menard.
- MS. CHIAVARA: And that is all I
- have for direct exam, Chairwoman Martin.
- 14 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank
- 15 you.
- Mr. Wiesner.
- 17 MR. WIESNER: Thank you, Madam
- 18 Chair. I only have a few clarifying
- 19 questions for Ms. Menard. I'll try to run
- through them quickly.
- 21 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 22 BY MR. WIESNER:
- 23 Q. I think I want to begin by asking if you
- could describe in somewhat more detail the

primary differences between the actual and estimated cost information that's contained in the Schedules ELM-1 and ELM-2, and how and when the actuals and estimated costs are reconciled.

A. Yes. I'll just get there.

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So the costs that are shown on ELM-2, which is -- let me just get the Bates page number. So beginning on red Bates 36 is the ELM-2 schedules. And this is actual costs for the period that ends January 31st, 2021. At the time the February rate was set, these costs were known through November of 2020, I believe, and forecasted for December and January -- December 2020 and January 2021. Those costs are -- and if we remember the rate period for the energy -- for the SCRC rate at that time would have been February 2021 through January of 2022. set the rate for that time period. We have actuals through November of 2020. forecast the rest of the time period and we set the rate. Then we come in August, and we layer in actuals for December of 2020

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through -- December 2020 and January of 2021 on Attachment ELM-2.

And if we flip over to Attachment ELM-1, which begins on red Bates 29 -- sorry -- 30, we layered in actuals from February 2021 through May of 2021 in this case and would update any estimates for the June 2021 through January 2022 time period. So it's an opportunity in August to update that rate set in February with actual costs known through the time period that we file, update any forecasted costs, or any other costs that have changed since that February rate was set.

So the ELM-2 at this point, in August, is fully updated with actuals. ELM-1 still contains some estimates, but it is updated with actuals through the time period we have.

If we were to fast-forward to the next February rate, what we see on ELM-1 becomes ELM-2. So we have a bunch more actuals probably through November at that point. And we set the February rate based on that, and then ELM-1 becomes the forecast period. So

- it's really just a reconciliation of the

 prior 12-month period with a forecast of the

 current 12-month period. I hope that

 clarified it.
 - Q. Thank you. That's a helpful clarification.

 I appreciate that. I now want to turn our
 attention to, I believe it's Bates Page red

 33. And this is one of the schedules
 contained in ELM-1. I'll let people get
 there.

And if we're there, in particular,
Line 15, there's an item named "Generation
Divestiture Cost Non-Securitized," and a
total amount of \$12,007,000. Is it correct
that this amount is just a one-time expense
left over from the divestiture?

- A. Yes. There's a one-time expense that began in February 2021 and will end in January of 2022. At that time, those additional generation divestiture costs that were not in the original securitized amount will be fully recovered and will not be part of the SCRC rate going forward.
- Q. And just to clarify for the record, on

1		Line 12 we see the item, "Residual Generation
2		O&M." You touched on this before. That's
3		listed as a credit to customers of
4		\$6,048,000. That is not a one-time credit;
5		is that correct?
6	A.	Yes. This is for any ongoing cost related to
7		when Eversource owned generation. Ideally
8		there would be no more cost, but there are
9		adjustments that happen. I talked about two
10		adjustments in particular that have the
11		biggest impact. One is any abatements
12		received or settlements received from
13		property tax disputes. Those seem to have
14		lessened now. We're sort of a few years out
15		from divestiture, and I think the majority of
16		those lawsuits, or whatever you want to call
17		them, have been resolved at this point.
18		There's also an ongoing you know, as
19		generation employees were divested, there
20		was, you know, pensions that were provided.

generation employees were divested, there was, you know, pensions that were provided. There was assumptions that went into the securitization. As the pension costs are updated -- I think they take a look at them annually -- if there are any changes, those

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- flow through this Residual Generation O&M
 line. So in this case, pension costs are
 projected to be lower as we flow those lower
 costs back to customers through the SCRC rate
 in Part 2.
 - Q. And does the Company expect that pension expense to be highly variable going forward, or is it likely to be in the same range that we see now?
- 10 A. I can't speak to what's going to happen in
 11 the future, but we've seen it be pretty
 12 consistent at this level for the past couple
 13 of years.
- 14 Q. That's helpful. Thank you.

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Same page, Bates 33, red 33, Line 14,
there's an item listed, Excess Deferred
Income Taxes, or EDIT, and that is also shown
as a credit to customers of \$5,585,000.
Could you explain that, please.

A. Yes. This is related to the change in tax rates that happened at the end of 2017, the Tax Cut and Jobs Act. There was a reduction in the federal tax rate, as well as there have been changes to the state tax rate. So

those changes flow back to customers over a
set period of time. I think for generation,
it's about a five- to ten-year period,
depending on the component. And that's where
those credits back to customers for those
excess taxes show up.

- Q. And the amortization period, is that a function of standard accounting rules?
- 9 A. Yes.

Α.

10 Q. Okay. Thank you. I think that's all I have on that page.

I do want to ask you as well about the net metering costs. I just want to hopefully draw a distinction between those costs which are, as I believe you testified, based on the monetary credits that are provided to net-metered customer generators for their net exports over the relevant period. Those costs are different and distinguishable from the loss base revenue costs, which are separately recovered through the RRA that was the subject of a hearing the other day in DE 21-029; is that correct?

{DE 21-117} [Hearing] {07-22-21}

That is correct. The costs that are here in

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the net metering adder are those that we
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         actually pay customers for their exports.
         when they exceed their need, they export
3
         those extra kilowatt hours up to the grid,
4
5
         and they are paid for that.
              With loss base revenue, these are for
6
7
         the kilowatt hours that we don't see.
         there's an estimate of the kilowatt hours
8
         that are not measured that the customer
9
         actually avoids paying, and there's a
10
11
         calculation, an estimate calculation that's
         calculated, and that is what is part of the
12
         RRA.
13
         And those two charges, those two methods of
14
15
         determining costs related to net metering,
16
         are entirely separate, without overlap; is
17
         that also correct?
         That is correct.
18
    Α.
19
                    MR. WIESNER: Okay. Thank you.
         That's all I have.
20
21
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                         Okay.
                                                Thank
22
         you, Mr. Wiesner.
23
                    Commissioner Goldner.
24
                    COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Yeah, thank
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{DE 21-117} [Hearing] {07-22-21}

I just have a few questions. 1

INTERROGATORIES BY COMMISSIONERS:

BY COMMISSIONER GOLDNER:

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I'll classify my first set of questions under Q. that of a new commissioner just trying to understand what's going on.

> Are these stranded costs sort of all grounded in generation -- that is, the days when Eversource owned generation? Is that kind of the core issue that we're talking about?

Yes, I would say the majority of these costs. Back when the Company owned generation, there was an energy service rate and a stranded cost rate. And there were rules as to how costs related to power generated by the Company and used to serve energy service customers were calculated and recovered. And then there was over-market costs or stranded -- additional stranded costs recovered through the SCRC rate. When the Company divested, the energy service rate and the SCRC rate were changed a little bit. so the SCRC rate was to try to recover costs

that are not related to serving energy
service load, which is procured from the
market. And so what's left over is any power
purchase agreements, any cost associated with
those, because they tend to be over market.
So there's that. Plus, any of these residual
costs of when the Company owned generation,
as well as some ISO-New England market
administrative costs. There are credits that
flow through related to, you'll see Seabrook
on there. And, you know, there's some
credits that flow related to ownership in
or there's some settlements or lawsuit
settlements related to Seabrook. There are
the interaction between the stranded costs
rate and the energy service rate, in terms of
renewable energy certificates. So the Class
1 energy Class 1 RECs are purchased, and
those are purchased under contracts with
Burgess and Lempster. Those then are
transferred over to the energy service rate
at a specified price. And any the SCRC
rate is credited for that amount. So there's
some interplay between the two rates that was

kind of all agreed to at the time of the divestiture, but it's in large part associated with generation.

But there are some additional items related to contractual obligations with independent power producers in these power purchase agreements that aren't necessarily related to generation, but they're obligations that the Company has that are over-market, and so they're termed, you know, "stranded costs." And then there's items like the RGGI refund. Is it really related to generation, or at least generation ownership? However, the SCRC rate is our only rate that flows back to all customers. And so that's why some of these components are included in the SCRC rate, when they might not, you know, just from looking at a high level, might not be specifically to when the Company owned generation.

Q. Okay. That's very helpful.

Just a follow-up on something you mentioned. You talked about the PPAs and being often over market, which is why they

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show up here. Can you talk more about why
1
         that's over market? How does that work?
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         Some of these power purchase agreements were
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    Α.
         entered into at a time where the North
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5
         Country was -- it was at a time where the
         state was trying to help provide economic
6
7
         development in the North Country. So the
8
         Burgess power plant is up in Berlin, New
         Hampshire. This was a wood-fired biomass
9
         plant and provided a number of jobs in the
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11
         area. And so there was a power purchase
12
         agreement that was entered into, because a
         lot of these facilities that are, you know,
13
         renewable generation facilities, like
14
15
         Lempster Wind and Burgess Biopower, there are
16
         times when their costs are higher than the
17
         market. And so these agreements were entered
18
         into, with the agreement that any over-market
         costs will be recovered from customers.
19
20
         Okay. Thank you.
    Q.
21
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                        Commissioner
22
         Goldner, can I just interject on that?
23
                    COMMISSIONER GOLDNER:
                                           Hmm-hmm.
24
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                        Ms. Menard, I
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{DE 21-117} [Hearing] {07-22-21}

understand the history on the Burgess one, but I haven't had the experience with Lempster. Can you just give us a little more detail as to why and how that came to happen and be included here?

WITNESS MENARD: Lempster was, I believe it was one of the first large-scale wind turbine facilities in the state. don't recall when the agreement was put into It was a number of years ago. place. just trying to see if I have any detail on it. And so that contract is a little bit different. And I don't have all the details on that contract, but we could certainly go back into the records and get that.

But it's a -- we purchased their energy capacity and their RECs. And their contract has some opportunity for buy-back of their RECs. But at some point in time the Company entered into this agreement with Lempster. If you were to look on -- let me just get the page.

If you were to look on red Bates 34 and 41, 41 is the full year of actuals for

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Lempster. But you can see the products that are purchased from Lempster. We've got energy. And, you know, their energy at their contract pricing is purchased at a bit of a higher rate than market. Capacity, though, is in a different position, where the capacity costs for their contract are purchased at a lower rate than what we receive from market. And then you can see the RECs that are purchased from them.

So I don't have the details on when and what the circumstances surrounding the Lempster contract was. I'm more familiar with Burgess because we've had hearings on --we've had specific dockets on it. But we could certainly find out. I could certainly get the information from the people that are involved.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: I think I'm in the same boat as you with Burgess. We've had hearings, and so I am aware. I would appreciate it if you could provide that information just for background.

(Exhibit 2 reserved for record request

1 as described.)
2 CHAIRWOMAN

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Do you know if
there's a related legislative mandate at all?
WITNESS MENARD: No, not for
Lempster. It's in a very different position

6 than Burgess.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank

you.

BY COMMISSIONER GOLDNER:

Q. Yes, Ms. Menard, just one more question on that topic, and again, just in the spirit of understanding how the financials work.

How is that PPA dollar amount determined? You mentioned it was, you know, kind of overage. And there's a bidding process, I assume, and other people are bidding on it. Other utilities are bidding on it. You're the winner because I guess you have the lowest bid. I mean, can you just walk me through? Again, I'm in the new commissioner mode here of understanding how the -- how you were the -- how you got these PPAs.

A. I don't think there was a bidding process for

{DE 21-117}

these. I think there was it was if I
recall back, this was a number of years ago,
but with Burgess in particular, I believe the
Company was approached by Burgess to, you
know, enter into this PPA so that they could
have a fixed revenue stream or a known
revenue stream so that they could secure
financing and operate successfully. And the
way that PPAs work in New Hampshire is the
agreement is signed between the parties, and
then it's approved by the Commission. So
there was a point in time gosh, I can't
even remember. This has got to be more than
10 years ago at this point. There was a
point in time where the agreements were made,
a contract price was established. If I
recall, the contract, I think, you know, we
purchased it's somehow tied to some sort
of index pricing. And so we entered into
this agreement, and then we purchased the
products of capacity energy and up to 400,000
RECs. So it's all specified in a contract.
But in this particular case, there's not
a bid, a bidding process for it. It was very

{DE 21-117} [Hearing] {07-22-21}

1 much a bilateral contract kind of thing.

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Q. Okay. Thank you. That's very helpful.

Is there a -- you know, I noticed in your forecast, they generally go out a year or something like that. Is there a table somewhere that we can reference or another docket or something where we can look at these stranded costs and how they go out over time? I mean, eventually things go to zero or near zero, I suppose, and maybe that's over the next 10 or 15 years, specifically with respect to the power generation. there were some things not directly related, like RGGI, as you explained. But is there sort of a longer-term forecast where you at Eversource are looking at how these stranded costs play out over time?

A. No, we don't have anything like that,
unfortunately. I don't think we've ever been
asked for that. We do know -- you know, the
biggest component of our SCRC rate is our
repayment of the principal and interest on
the RRBs. So we do know that. We have a
schedule out as to, you know, when principal

{DE 21-117}

[Hearing]

{07-22-21}

payments are made, how much they are, interest adjustments. So there is a fixed time period for that one.

But I think we get this question a lot:
When will the SCRC go away? And I'm not sure
it will ever go away because there's -- you
know, certainly for some of these adders,
like net metering, that won't go away,
although it could morph over time. You know,
RGGI refunds, I don't see an end in that.

You know, the Burgess PPA is very much tied to some legislative mandates for us.

You know, so we had anticipated that to end a couple years ago because it was -- the amount that customers had paid over market had reached a cap of \$100,000,000, and at that point customers were supposed to receive money back. But Burgess was unable to -- it basically would have put them out of business. So there was a legislative mandate to extend the cap for three years to get them to be in a better position and then re-evaluate in three years.

I don't know how long the Lempster

contract goes for, but certainly we can find that information out with the rest of the detail about the Lempster contract.

There are some components with -- let me What else? There are some IPPs that are still remaining. I think there's maybe a couple more years on some of the -- you know, these IPP costs, these are costs that are energy and capacity that's purchased from smaller hydro and older hydro facilities. Some of these contracts go back a ways. I think there's, you know, there's less and less, so these costs go down over time. think some of the end dates might be in the next couple of years, maybe 2022 or 2023. But certainly the biggest chunk of costs are related to the RRBs.

Q. No question. Yeah, I think we won't make it a request here or anything like that, but I think it would be illustrative, helpful to sort of look at the, you know, next five or ten years and how these things phase out because, as you mentioned, there's some that are phasing out over the next year or two,

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years, and then there are things that keep popping up. And that's what you're saying. And that makes perfect sense. There'll be new issues that arise over time. You can't predict those. So that's fair. But just having headlights on what's happening in the ones that you do know about and how that plays out, that may be something to look at in the future.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Thank you.

So a lot of times when there's sort of a large over-recovery like this, and I understand the position the utilities are in, you get questions if you over-recover and you get questions if you under-recover. You kind of can't win, right, unless you nail your forecast exactly, which never happens, of course, in any line of work.

You have kind of a transition analysis, and I think you showed that in, I think it was red 13 or so, red 12, where, you know, I think that the point of red 12, red Bates 12,

{DE 21-117}

[Hearing]

{07-22-21}

- was to sort of show this is where we started and this is where we ended. Was that the intention of that table?
 - Yeah. And I will say I hear what you're Α. saying. And our past practice has been to not put in forecasts for some of these And so we've -- I think beginning unknowns. in the February rate, and we've started with this August rate, although there's not much time in this rate -- we've started to put some sort of a forecast in for some of these numbers that, you know, we could arguably say we have no idea what they're going to be. But rather than say we have no idea what they're going to be, put some sort of intelligence, either some, you know, 12-month average or something in there so that there's less of these swings up and down in the rate. Certainly for residual generation O&M, we know at this point, we know that these are going to be kind of largely tied to the pension credits. We have -- you know, we can put some sort intelligent forecast together for that one. So I think we can get a little

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bit better at that. 1

- I don't want your financial analysts to get criticized. But when everything on the far right has brackets around it -- I'm exaggerating a little bit -- that indicates maybe an adjustment in process might be warranted. So I appreciate your looking at that. And as you suggested, the REC sales were forecasted at zero, negative 2.6, O&M zero, about 6 million. So, you know, just truing up a couple of those things would help out a lot.
- 13 Okay. Α.

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You've already sorted that out, so that's Q. really good. Okay. Thank you on that one.

16 I'm not sure how to ask this question, so I'll look to the Chair. 17

> COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: What I'm trying to sort out is if the OCA or the DOE has reviewed these financials and categories in detail. How do I get to that question?

> CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: I was actually going to ask if Mr. Wiesner was able to put on Mr. Eckberg and if the Company would

{DE 21-117} [Hearing]

{07-22-21}

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         object to that. I had the same quandary.
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                    MS. CHIAVARA:
                                   The Company does not
         object.
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                   MR. WIESNER:
                                  We had not planned to
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         have him testify. But if it's the will of
5
         the Commission, he is willing and able to do
6
7
         so. We would have to have him promoted to a
8
         panelist from the attendee pool.
9
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Yes, I think if
         he's willing and you're willing, we'd love to
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11
         have him promoted and sworn in.
                    MR. WIESNER:
                                  I believe he's
12
         willing.
13
14
         Commissioner Goldner, I think your
    Α.
15
         question -- to answer some parts of your
16
         question, you know, the Company and -- I
17
         forget what the new name of Staff is.
         We call them "DOE" at the moment.
18
    Q.
19
    Α.
         We do engage in technical sessions, and the
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         Company does provide our live Excel
21
         spreadsheets which contain all of the detail
22
         that goes into our rate calculation.
                                                We try
23
         to be very transparent with all of the
24
         inputs. So we have provided that to Mr.
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Eckberg. We tie it to the Company's books for a lot of these costs where you can. You know, in terms of forecasts, those don't obviously tie to the Company's books. So our past practice has been we would have these technical sessions with former PUC Staff, now DOE, as sort of, you know, digging in and kicking the tires. And certainly Staff will catch things that, you know, we may have overlooked or looked at from a different perspective. I don't recall any audit, like a professional audit by the Audit Division, of these costs.

As part of the docket on generation divestiture, DE-20-005, we did go through a full audit of the divested generation costs. We did get into -- I take that back. Audit Staff did dig into the SCRC, some components of the SCRC rate. So there have been pieces that have been reviewed. But certainly I'll let Mr. Eckberg answer your questions in more detail.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: And can we get Mr. Eckberg sworn in, please.

{DE 21-117}

[Hearing]

{07-22-21}

And before we do that, I just want to say I think that this has come up a couple of times since this reorganization. And to the extent we don't have access to our former staff directly anymore, it is very helpful to have Energy Staff witnesses available to answer questions.

WITNESS MENARD: And to that point, that's one of the things we've been struggling with, 'cause I know in a couple of the hearings that we've had recently, there have been a number of outstanding questions, where in the past we would just have that conversation with former Staff and, you know, they could provide that information or provide some guidance. So we are struggling a little bit as utilities with this wall that is now there between the two entities.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: I think we are all struggling. And I think from our perspective, it now has to be presented as evidence. So having the witness available is very helpful. Thank you. Thank you all for being helpful today with this. Go ahead.

(WHEREUPON, STEPHEN R. ECKBERG was duly 1 sworn and cautioned by the Court 2 Reporter.) 3

STEPHEN R. ECKBERG, SWORN

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Go ahead,

Commissioner Goldner.

COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Thank you.

BY COMMISSIONER GOLDNER:

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- Mr. Eckberg, my only question was really just Q. trying to understand, as part of reviewing the docket, if the DOE had reviewed these financials and each of the categories in detail, and if the DOE was comfortable with the numbers as presented.
- (Eckberg) Yes. We have reviewed many of the Α. numbers, many of the amounts that have been included here. Just for example, the RGGI rebate is one of the line items here that's been discussed. And I did, you know, check our own records here at the Department of Energy, where we oversee the amounts that are returned to New Hampshire from RGGI auctions quarterly. And then we perform an allocation of those amounts, and certain amounts go back

{DE 21-117} [Hearing]

to Eversource for returning to their customers through the SCRC, as Ms. Menard has explained. And I did confirm, for example, that all of the amounts that they have included here in their schedules for the RGGI rebate match our records.

and as Ms. Menard said, there was an audit of divestiture expenses in Docket DE 20-005. Some of the costs here, such as a -- I believe that Attorney Wiesner asked Ms. Menard about a \$12,000,000 one-time expense. That was the subject of an audit. And that was on red Bates Page 33, Line 15. So that particular line item, for example, was audited by what is now the Department of Energy's Audit Division in the past. Other specific numbers have not been delved into at great length.

For instance, Ms. Menard did discuss several times the \$6 million credit, which is on red Bates 33, Line 12. That's the residual generation o&M which she has described as primarily due to lower pension costs that were initially forecast and

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1		included in the securitization process. We	
2		have not, for example, dug into that to	
3		really confirm that number. And I just use	
4		that as an example. We have no specific	
5		reason to disbelieve the accuracy of that	
6		number, but I just wanted to point that out	
7		as an example. So I'm not sure if that is a	
8		sufficient answer for you at this point.	
9	Q.	Yes. Thank you, sir. That's excellent. I'm	
10		just trying to understand what has been	
11		reviewed by the DOE or PUC and what hasn't.	
12		And it looks like large chunks of this have	
13		been reviewed, but not every line item. So	
14		that's what I was looking for. Thank you.	
15		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Commissioner	
16		Goldner, could I interject with one follow-up	
17		on that while we have Mr. Eckberg?	
18		Mr. Eckberg, Bates 59 and 60, I	
19		think it was red let me double-check.	
20		Yes, the tariff rate. Has Energy Staff	
21		reviewed the application there of these	
22		adjustments to the classes?	
23		WITNESS ECKBERG: I'm sorry, Madam	
24		Chair. Could you give me that Bates	
		{DE 21-117} [Hearing] {07-22-21}	

reference number again?

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Bates 59 and

3 60.

WITNESS ECKBERG: And those red

Bates 59 and 60, so that's -- am I correct

that's ELM-10 --

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Yes.

WITNESS ECKBERG: -- Page 3 and 4?

Okay. Thank you. I've asked just because

I'm working with not the actual exhibit copy,

I'm working from black Bates page numbers

rather than red page numbers.

So we have reviewed the Company's calculations of these rates as part of our review. The Company does provide us with actual spreadsheets, live Excel spreadsheet versions of these schedules. So we do have the opportunity to, you know, trace the actual calculations through and look at things in more detail. And that's certainly much appreciated. The Company has provided us with those live spreadsheets for all of these dockets that we've been engaged in this month. So we have had that opportunity to

{DE 21-117}

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         review all those things in detail.
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                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: And did Energy
         Staff identify any concerns, or are you in
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         agreement with those?
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                   WITNESS ECKBERG: We did not
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         identify any concerns with these rate
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7
         calculations shown on these pages. So we are
8
         in support of what has been presented here,
9
         yes.
10
                                        Thank you, Mr.
                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
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         Eckberg.
                   WITNESS ECKBERG:
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                                      Certainly.
    BY COMMISSIONER GOLDNER:
13
         Question for Ms. Menard. Can you point me to
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    Q.
15
         the table or documentation on the rate
16
         reduction, bond structure --
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                [Court Reporter interrupts.]
         Just is there a table of rates, the duration,
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    Q.
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         debt rating, et cetera? I couldn't find that
         in the docket.
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21
         (Menard) I don't believe we include that
22
         information in this particular docket.
23
         would be in Docket DE 17-096.
                                         There are
24
         several dockets related to generation
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divestiture. But I think 17-096 is related to the financing, and I believe there are some exhibits in there which show the debt rate and all that information.

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- Okay. I can look that up in the other Q. I just wanted to be oriented as to where it was. So that's 17-096, and it's got -- it has the duration in rates, debt rating and all that information in it?
- (Menard) Yes. In terms of the rates Α. themselves, those change. I'm not sure if that's what you're asking about. of -- so the way that we set a rate, and that's what exhibit -- sorry --Attachment 11 -- no, ELM-12, on red Bates 67 through 69, that is an advice filing that is filed actually into that 17-096 docket. attached it here. I think it was a request from the Bench maybe last year or so.

So we had set the actual rates. You'll see on red Bates 68, you'll see the rates themselves, the RRB charge per kilowatt hour. So those are -- that's how we collect the money from customers. It's based on

- remittances that we receive. And then those remittances are used to pay down the -- to make the debt payments. I think they're made twice a year.
- 5 Q. Do you remember just roughly what the rate is
 6 and what the duration is? Was it a 15-year,
 7 10-year? Is there multiple durations? It's
 8 not a trick question. I'm just trying to
 9 understand it. And I can look it up in the
 10 docket if you don't remember.
- 11 A. (Menard) You know, it's funny. I had a
 12 feeling you were going to ask me this
 13 question. And, you know, I don't tend to
 14 keep these numbers in my head. But I wanted
 15 to look it up before I got into the hearing,
 16 and I completely forgot.
- 17 Q. No worries.
- 18 A. (Menard) So I don't remember it off the top
 19 of my head.
- Q. No worries. I'll look it up and see what it says.
- And again, this may be too detailed.

 And again, if it's in the other docket, no
 problem. There's a mention on red Bates 13

- of the RRB fees. Do you have a -- can you
 give me a sense for what those fees are for
 and how much those would be? And again, if
 it's in the other docket, no problem.
- 5 A. (Menard) The fees are related to -- and I
 6 think when you say "fees," you're talking
 7 about --
- 8 Q. It talks about principal, interest and
 9 fees --
- 10 A. (Menard) Yeah, there's a bunch of, like,
 11 servicer payments. And there's some legal
 12 fees that go -- that are paid on some
 13 frequency basis. But they're related to
 14 servicing the RRB itself.
- 15 Q. Would it be contained in 17-096?
- 16 A. (Menard) It might be. You know, if you would
 17 like, I can provide a summary of a lot of the
 18 information that you're looking for rather
 19 than have you hunt around.
- Q. Thank you. I appreciate that offer. Yeah,
 I'm just trying to understand from a
 ratepayer perspective, you know, what is
 it -- are the fees, you know, one percent of
 the total or 20 percent of the total. Just

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trying to understand what the structure of
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         the deal is. So I would appreciate that, if
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         you could. Not as an official record
3
         request, but just as information.
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                    COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Can I do
         that, Chair?
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                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Well, she'll
         need to file it into the docket. So why
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         don't we call it a record request.
9
                   Ms. Menard, can you describe back
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11
         what you're providing and I can make sure
         we're all in agreement?
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                    WITNESS MENARD:
                                     Yes.
                                           I think
13
14
         Commissioner Goldner asked for a description
15
         of the fees that are paid, what types of fees
16
         that are paid; the duration of the term,
17
         which I did get confirmation, the final
         payment will be made in February of 2033.
18
                (Exhibit 3 reserved for record request
19
20
               as described.)
21
    BY COMMISSIONER GOLDNER:
22
         Okay.
    Q.
23
         (Menard) Let me see. What else did you ask?
    Α.
         The rate of the --
24
    Q.
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- 1 (Menard) And the rate. The rate. You had Α. 2 asked something about the credit -- the rating itself? 3
- I think the definition of an RRB, if I 4 0. Yeah. understand it, is that it's a Triple A debt 5 rating. And there's often charges that show 6 7 the delta between the Triple A rating and the 8 rate on the RRB. So I'm just trying to understand if we're competitive on that rate. 9
- (Menard) Okay. 10 Α.
- Thank you. Thank you very much. 11 0. Ι 12 appreciate that.
- COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Just a few 13 14 more, Chairwoman Martin. It's I think a 15 follow-up to Attorney Wiesner's question. 16 And again, this is just a question for
- BY COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: 18

understanding.

17

19 Q. On red Bates 17, there's discussion of the 20 generation divestiture costs not securitized. That was the \$12 million. Can you just 21 22 describe in layman's terms what this is, this 23 \$12 million? I'm not sure I understand what 24 the transaction is.

- A. (Menard) Did you ask Attorey Wiesner, or were you asking me?
- 3 Q. I'm sorry. I was asking Ms. Menard, yeah.

A. (Menard) Oh, okay. Sorry. Yes, the \$12 million -- so when the Company securitized -- the Company estimated how much was to be securitized, and that amount was based on assumptions as to how much the plants would be sold for and, you know, various assumptions that went into securitizing.

The hydro plants were not sold at the same time as the fossil plants or the thermal plants, so there were some unknowns at the time that the RRBs were finalized, which I believe was in May of -- I'm going to get these all wrong -- may of 2019 or 2018. So there was a lot of unknowns at the time. So the intent was that we would true up those costs at some later date.

In addition, the costs themselves were subject to audit. And, you know, some of the ongoing costs that we didn't know about or were not included in securitization, there

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were legal fees; there were costs associated with getting the plants themselves prepared and sold; there were -- I'm just trying to look at -- go back into that docket and see if we can -- there was employee separation costs; there were some environmental liability premiums. You know, there were a handful of costs that were estimated, and so the intent was to true these up. And so in Docket DE 20-005, those costs were reviewed by audit, and, you know, the Company came to a settlement agreement on an amount of additional costs that were not securitized that could be recovered through the SCRC rate. And that \$12 million is the final settled amount that basically incorporated all these trued-up estimated costs or unknown costs at the time of securitization.

Q. Okay. Thank you.

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And the last question is, does the total amount of the RGGI rebates equal the amount refunded to customers? Are those one in the same number, or is there a difference between the two?

1 (Menard) The only difference would be related Α. 2 to -- as I said, we set a rate for how we're going to refund the RGGI proceeds to 3 customers. And so anytime you set a rate, 4 5 when actuals -- you make assumptions on what the sales are going to be and all that kind 6 7 of stuff. As the actual sales occur, there's 8 this variance. So we may either refund customers too much or we may not refund them 9 enough. So there's this 10 11 (over)/under-recovery that occurs as part of just the actual rate setting itself. So that 12 is a component of the RGGI rebate as well. 13 14 So it's the proceeds themselves plus any 15 (over)/under-recovery with interest. So ultimately, over time, it is the same 16 Q. 17 number I think is what you're saying. 18 (Menard) Yes. Α. 19 Q. It just takes a -- each cycle you have to 20 true it up. 21 Α. (Menard) Yes. 22 Okay. Thank you. 0. 23 COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: And that's 24 all, Chair Martin. Thank you.

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CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. 1 I just 2 have a few questions. Most of the questions I had were already answered. 3 INTERROGATORIES BY CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: 4 Ms. Menard, you explained -- you had a good 5 Q. explanation on RGGI, for what the numbers 6 7 But I'm still wondering why they're 8 called "costs." Is that just a function of the fact that they're in the SCRC filing? 9 10 (Menard) Yeah. You know, maybe for next time Α. around I'll call it something different. 11 Okay. Thank you. 12 Q. On the non-wood IPP ongoing costs, can 13 you just describe what that involves? 14 15 (Menard) Yes. Let me just -- I want to see Α. 16 some specific examples. So we have a handful 17 of -- let me see. There's maybe less than They're called "independent power 18 20. producers." They've been called "QFs" in the 19 20 past. There's all these terms for what 21 they're called. But we purchase energy from 22 these smaller facilities that are mostly 23 hydro facilities. There are some

photovoltaic facilities as well, but we

purchase their energy at avoided costs, and
we sell that back into the market. So that's
what that line is accounting for. It's
accounting for the purchase and the resale of
those smaller independent power producers.
There are a couple of them that still are
under a particular contract, I believe. But
I believe the majority of them are under
avoided cost rates.

Q. Okay. Thank you. I think you have answered -- oh, no, I did have one more.

On the REC sales, you mentioned that you sell them when they're not needed and it's credited to customers. Can you just walk us through the process of how you do that and when?

- A. (Menard) Yes. There are times, in particular for, let's say Burgess RECs, where we don't need them for compliance. And they have a shelf life per the NEPOOL GIS system. So if they're not going to be used for compliance, we would resell those into the market for others to use, and they get retired.
- Q. Thank you. I think that's all my questions.

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1	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Did you have	
2	any other questions, Commissioner Goldner?	
3	COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: No.	
4	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.	
5	Then I do want to give Mr. Wiesner an	
6	opportunity to at least identify Mr. Eckberg	
7	for the record since we brought him in	
8	midstream and see if you do have any direct	
9	questions that you'd like to ask.	
10	MR. WIESNER: I guess I'll just ask	
11	then, Mr. Eckberg, for the record, to state	
12	his name and his title with the Department of	
13	Energy.	
14	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: You're on mute.	
15	WITNESS ECKBERG: My apologies	
16	again. That's two strikes for me today.	
17	I am Stephen Eckberg. I'm an	
18	analyst with the Regulatory Support Division	
19	of the Department of Energy.	
20	DIRECT EXAMINATION	
21	BY MR. WIESNER:	
22	Q. And as you confirmed yesterday earlier,	
23	you did examine in detail the Company's	
24	filing in this docket; is that correct?	
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			65
1	A.	(Eckberg) That's correct. I examined the	
2		filing when it was made. I participated in a	
3		technical session with Company	
4		representatives, where we discussed many	
5		aspects of the filing. And I conducted, you	
6		know, further independent review of details	
7		in the filing and discussed those with you in	
8		preparation for this hearing.	
9	Q.	Thank you.	
10		MR. WIESNER: So that's my direct,	
11		and I have no redirect.	
12		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank	
13		you.	
14		And Ms. Chiavara, did you have any	
15		cross?	
16		MS. CHIAVARA: I have no cross for	
17		Mr. Eckberg. Thank you.	
18		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right. Do	
19		you have any redirect?	
20		MS. CHIAVARA: No redirect either.	
21		Thank you very much.	
22		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. All	
23		right. Then is there anything else we need	
24		to do besides the exhibits before we sum up?	
'		{DE 21-117} [Hearing] {07-22-21}	

[No verbal response]

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.

Seeing none, we'll strike I.D. Exhibit 1

without objection and admit that as a full

exhibit, and hold the record open for Exhibit

2 for the record request regarding Lempster

and Exhibit 3 for the description of fees,

the rate and the information about rating.

And if there's nothing else, we will take closing statements, starting with Mr. Wiesner.

MR. WIESNER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Department of Energy appreciates the

Company's willingness to meet with us in a

technical session before the hearing in order

to clarify the many aspects of its filing.

The SCRC, as you've heard this morning,

covers a lot of different costs and credits,

and it was very helpful to us to have that

session in order to walk through the various

components that compose that rate.

Based on our analysis, we've

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identified no reason why Eversource's proposed changes to the SCRC rate should not be approved by the Commission, and therefore the Department supports Commission approval of the Company's proposed SCRC rates.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Wiesner.

Ms. Chiavara.

MS. CHIAVARA: Yes. Thank you.

First, I'd like to thank DOE Staff, as they made very helpful clarifications and insight into the proposed rate, and we'd like to thank them for their recommendation of the proposed rate as well.

I'd also like to provide for the Commission's reference, I'd like to provide a note on the Lempster PPA. That PPA was approved by the Commission for inclusion in rates in 2009, and that was in docket No. DE O8-077. And that was consistent with state law and policy. And since then, the Company has been abiding with those terms, though surrounding market conditions may have changed since then. But that is the source

of the authority for that PPA.

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And then speaking to the proposed rates, the proposed stranded cost recovery charge was calculated consistently with those in the past that have been approved by the Commission. The rate reduction bond costs remain unchanged from the Company's last filing. And where the Part 1 and 2 calculations, including the three adders and the RGGI refund dollar figures, may have changed, the calculation methods are constant and consistently accurate. With all constituent parts, this proposed rate, having been well established, the Company requests that the Commission approve the SCRC rate as it has been proposed in the Company filing, with sufficient time to implement by August 1st. This will result in timely, just and reasonable rates.

And just one additional note, that this is a reconciling rate that should be expeditiously approved as proposed. And if there are, to any extent, any open issues, they can be fully addressed in future

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1	filings. But for now, we ask that the	
2	Commission not deny or delay the approval of	
3	the proposed SCRC rate and act on it in a	
4	timely manner for implementation on	
5	August 1st. Thank you.	
6	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you, Ms.	
7	Chiavara.	
8	For the record requests, is that	
9	something that you could get by next	
10	Wednesday?	
11	MS. CHIAVARA: It looks	
12	like Erica's maybe nodding yes. Ms. Menard?	
13	WITNESS MENARD: I would really	
14	like to be vacation next week, so I'm	
15	hoping	
16	MS. CHIAVARA: Oh, that's right.	
17	WITNESS MENARD: Yes.	
18	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: She's	
19	volunteering someone else I think.	
20	WITNESS MENARD: Yes.	
21	MS. CHIAVARA: Next Wednesday,	
22	which is, I believe	
23	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: The 28th.	
24	MS. CHIAVARA: Okay. Yes, on or	
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1	before next Wednesday.	
2	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right. If	
3	there's nothing else, we will adjourn for the	
4	day and take the matter under advisement.	
5	And we'll see some of you later. Thank you.	
6	(Whereupon the hearing was adjourned at	
7	10:46 a.m.)	
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1	CERTIFICATE	
2		
3		
4	I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public	
5	of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and	
6	accurate transcript of my stenographic notes of these proceedings taken at the	
7	place and on the date hereinbefore set forth, to the best of my skill and ability	
8	under the conditions present at the time.	
9	I further certify that I am neither attorney or counsel for, nor related to or	
10	employed by any of the parties to the action; and further, that I am not a	
11	relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I	
12	financially interested in this action.	
13	The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to any	
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23		
24		
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