

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 24-034

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Line Extension Rate Filing

Order *Nisi* Approving Updated Line Extension Rates

ORDER NO. 26,986

April 1, 2024

This order approves an update to line extension rates for Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource). Per foot costs to be assessed under of the Eversource tariff are \$31.26 for overhead single-phase line extensions, and \$22.05 for single-phase underground line extensions. These rate increases are to be effective on a temporary basis as of April 1, 2024, subject to reconciliation if rates change when the order *nisi* becomes final, and on a permanent basis subject to the effective date specified below *See* Order No. 26,794 (March 29, 2023). All docket filings, other than those subject to confidential treatment, are available on the Commission's website at:

<https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2024/24-034.html>.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On March 1, 2024, Eversource filed its annual update to the line-extension rates made pursuant to the terms of the policy established in Order No. 25,046 (November 20, 2009) in Docket No. DE 08-135 and Order No. 25,926 (July 26, 2016) in Docket No. IR 14-190. On March 22, 2024, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed a technical statement concerning Eversource's proposed line extension rates. No other parties sought intervention in this docket.

The Commission notes that in Docket No. DE 23-019, which was Eversource's 2023, line extension rate filing, the Commission requested that Eversource file future line requests more than thirty days before the proposed effective date of April 1 "in order to allow the Commission time to issue orders *nisi* effective before April 1." See Order No. 26,794 at 4.

II. POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES

A. Eversource

In its March 1, 2024 filing, Eversource proposed per foot rates of \$31.26 for overhead single-phase line extensions, which is an increase of \$0.57 over the current rate of \$30.69. Eversource also proposed a rate of \$22.05 for single-phase underground line extensions, which is an increase of \$1.73 from the current rate of \$20.32. Consistent with Order No. 25,046, Eversource proposed that both of these rates be effective from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025.

B. DOE

The DOE filed a technical statement on March 22, 2023, and affirmed that the calculations in the revised filing submitted by Eversource on March 24, 2023, are consistent with the methodology outlined in Order Nos. 25,046 and 25,926. The DOE therefore recommended that the Commission find that the resulting adjustments to the line extension charge for an effective date of April 1, 2024, are just and reasonable.

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission has reviewed Eversource's filing and accepted the DOE's recommendation that that the methodology and calculations are consistent with the settlement agreement approved in Order No. 25,046 and Order No. 25,926 and that the resulting rates are just and reasonable pursuant to those orders and the ratemaking standards of RSA chapter 378. We approve these adjustments as

temporary rates effective April 1, 2024 pursuant to RSA 378:27, and as permanent rates on the effective date of this order. See Order No. 26,794.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED NISI, that the line extension charges of \$31.26 for overhead single-phase line extensions, and \$22.05 for single-phase underground lines are APPROVED as temporary rates pursuant to RSA 378:27 effective on April 1, 2024, and are APPROVED as permanent rates on the effective date below; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Eversource shall cause a copy of this order to be published on its website in a prominent and visible place, such publication to be no later than two business days from the date of this order and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before five business days from the date of this order; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this order 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 April 12, 2024, 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 April 19, 2024; and it is

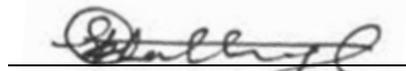
FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective May 1, 2024, unless the Eversource fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Eversource shall file a compliance tariff with the Commission on or before April 15, 2024 in accordance with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603.02(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that in future line extension filings, Eversource submit its filing at least sixty days prior to the April 1 effective date to allow the Commission time to issue orders *nisi* effective before April 1.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this first day of April, 2024.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner


Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 24-034

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