

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

DE 17-076

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

**Motion For Approval of Reconciliation and Continuation
of Reliability Enhancement Program**

ORDER OF NOTICE

On May 1, 2017, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a motion for approval of the reconciliation of its Reliability Enhancement Program (REP) activities between April 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, and continuation of the REP for 24 month beginning July 1, 2017. The filing includes supporting testimony and related exhibits. Eversource filed the reconciliation and report of REP activities for the April 2016 through June 2017 period pursuant to Order No. 25,913 (June 28, 2016). Order No. 25,913 also required that in the event that Eversource sought to extend the REP past June 1, 2017, Eversource should work with Staff and the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) to develop the continued program. Eversource said that consistent with the requirements of Order No. 25,913, Eversource met with Staff and the OCA to discuss its plan.

In the REP program period ending June 2017, Eversource's largest capital investment was in the area of distribution automation (DA), including the addition of pole top supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) controlled devices. According to Eversource, this activity resulted in significant savings in customer outage minutes. In addition to other DA activities, Eversource completed a geographic information system (GIS). Eversource said that the information in the GIS will enhance the Company's response to power outages. Eversource also

continued its vegetation management work including enhanced tree trimming and full width clearing of rights of way. Eversource plans to spend \$56.2 million in actual and forecasted capital investment costs for REP and vegetation management for the program period ending June 2017.

Eversource proposes to spend \$39 million annually for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2017 and the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2018. Eversource recovers through rates the revenue requirements associated with capital investments, and the operation and maintenance costs associated with vegetation management activities. Funding for the REP would also consist of redirecting the revenue streams from customer charges for the 2008 ice storm (fully amortized as of June 2017) and costs associated with health care legislation (fully amortized of December 2016). The annual revenue from the two sources is approximately \$7.6 million

On May 10, 2017, Staff and the OCA filed letters in response to the filings. Staff objected to Eversource's motion to continue the program. Staff said (1) the program should be an annual program and not a two year program; (2) Eversource should reduce its REP capital investment plans; (3) Eversource should end the customer charges associated with the 2008 ice storm and health care legislation; and (4) Eversource should not divert REP funding to support net metering or grid modernization. The OCA said it shared Staff's concerns, and also recommended review of the REP by Commission Audit Staff.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2017/17-076.html>.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the investments made between April 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, were prudent and reasonable; whether the activities Eversource proposes for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019, are prudent and reasonable, and in the public interest; whether the proposal to recover funding for the REP programs by continuing surcharges related to the ice storm and health care amortization is appropriate and in the public interest; and whether the proposed rates are just and reasonable pursuant to RSA 374:1. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Eversource work with Staff and the OCA to address the concerns raised in the May 10, 2017 letters to the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a Hearing, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on June 15, 2017 at 1:30 p.m., and it is

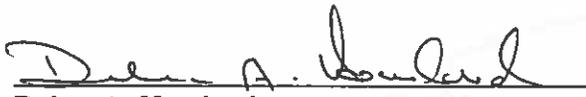
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than May 24, 2017, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before June 12, 2017; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Eversource and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before June 2, 2017, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how

its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before June 7, 2017.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventeenth day of May, 2017.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.