

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 18-097

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY AND UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.**

Joint Petition to Alter Franchise Areas in Bow

Order *Nisi* Approving Franchise Boundary Change

ORDER NO. 26,168

August 14, 2018

In this order, the Commission authorizes Eversource and Unitil to modify their franchise area boundary in the Town of Bow, which will allow Eversource to provide electric service to a residential lot at 17 Jacqueline Drive Extension. This order is being issued on a *nisi* basis to ensure that all interested parties receive notice and have the opportunity to comment or request a hearing before the order becomes effective.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On June 19, 2018, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) and Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (Unitil), filed a joint petition to alter their franchise areas in Bow. The franchise area alteration will allow Eversource to provide service to a residential lot within Unitil's service territory. The joint petition included two maps delineating Eversource's and Unitil's service territory boundaries.

Commission Staff (Staff) recommended approval by memorandum dated July 10, 2018. The joint petition, including the attachments and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, is posted at <http://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2018/18-097.html>.

II. SUMMARY OF PETITION

Eversource and Unitil each provide electric service to portions of Bow. Mr. Timothy Chadwick (the customer) plans to build a new residence on a lot, identified as parcel ID 17-3-24, located at 17 Jacqueline Drive Extension. Mr. Chadwick's lot is on the town line in Bow and within Unitil's service territory. It is not directly accessible from any roads in Bow; instead, it is accessed from a driveway off Jacqueline Drive in the Town of Dunbarton, which is in Eversource's service territory.

Eversource and Unitil propose adjusting their franchise border to include the Chadwick property in Eversource's service territory as well. Eversource has easier access to the Chadwick property and its existing distribution facilities are substantially closer. Consequently, Eversource's electric service extension costs would be less than Unitil's potential extension costs. Eversource and Unitil state the customer agrees with the proposed arrangement.

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

RSA 374:22, I provides that no person or business entity may commence business as a public utility in New Hampshire or exercise any right or privilege under any franchise without first obtaining the Commission's approval. The Commission may approve a franchise request, after due hearing or without a hearing when all interested parties are in agreement, if it finds the franchise would be for the public good. RSA 374:26.

We have reviewed Eversource's and Unitil's joint petition, as well as Staff's recommendation. We find that it is in the public good to include the Chadwick property within Eversource's service territory because the customer, Eversource, and Unitil agree to this arrangement and because it will be substantially less costly for Eversource to extend its electric utility distribution services to this site. Accordingly, we approve the joint petition on a *nisi* basis

to provide any interested party the opportunity to submit comments or request a hearing. We also direct Eversource and Unitil to file updated franchise maps noting this approved change.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, that subject to the effective date below, the joint petition of Eversource and Unitil to adjust their franchise territories in Bow, New Hampshire, is hereby GRANTED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Eversource shall cause a summary of this order, issued concurrently with this order, to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted, such publication to occur no later than August 24, 2018, and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before September 13, 2018; 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 August 31, 2018, 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 September 7, 2018; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective September 13, 2018, unless Eversource fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or unless otherwise ordered by the Commission; and it is

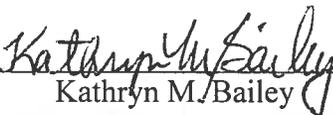
FURTHER ORDERED, that within 30 days of the effective date of this order, Eversource and Unitil shall file updated franchise maps noting the approved change, annotated

with this order and the effective date herein, unless a supplemental order is issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fourteenth day of August, 2018.



Martin P. Honigberg
Chairman

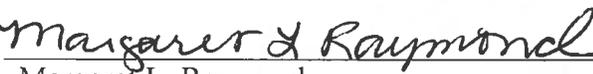


Kathryn M. Bailey
Commissioner



Michael S. Giaimo
Commissioner

Attested by:



Margaret L. Raymond
Assistant Secretary