

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. DE 17-096
AUDIT OF DIVESTITURE-RELATED COSTS

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
CATHERINE A. FINNERAN

Mercury Boiler Units 1 & 2 Removal Project at Schiller Station

On behalf of Public Service Company of New Hampshire
d/b/a Eversource Energy

November 27, 2019

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MOTION FOR COMMENCEMENT OF AUDIT

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF CATHERINE A. FINNERAN

November 27, 2019

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q. Please state your name, position and business address.**

3 A. My name is Catherine A. Finneran. I am the Vice President, Sustainability and
4 Environmental Affairs of Eversource Energy Service Company. My business address is
5 247 Station Drive, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090.

6 **Q. What are your principal responsibilities in this position?**

7 A. I am responsible for overseeing the Environmental Affairs organization, which manages
8 the environmental work of Eversource Energy across the service territories of its operating
9 companies, including Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource
10 Energy (“PSNH” or the “Company”). My responsibilities include sustainability, corporate
11 environmental strategy, oversight of emergency response, remediation, permitting,
12 corporate performance and compliance.

1 **Q. Please summarize your professional and educational background.**

2 A. I joined Eversource Energy in 2015 as Director of Environmental Affairs. In this role, I
3 was part of the PSNH Project Team on generation divestiture, overseeing the
4 environmental due diligence associated with the Company's divestiture of its hydroelectric
5 and thermal generating plants. As part of my responsibilities, I supervised and directed the
6 Project Manager and Project Management Team conducting the removal of Mercury Boiler
7 Units 1 and 2 at Schiller Station. I was promoted to my current position of Vice President,
8 Sustainability and Environmental Affairs in November 2019

9 Prior to joining Eversource Energy, I had more than 20 years of experience in the areas of
10 clean energy, environmental protection and economic development. I previously served
11 as Senior Director of the Renewable Energy Generation Division at the Massachusetts
12 Clean Energy Center, where I oversaw the design and implementation of rebate and grant
13 programs to grow the Massachusetts clean energy market and to increase deployment of
14 various clean energy technologies. Prior to that, I served as the Director of Clean Energy
15 for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("Mass DEP"). Prior to
16 that, I served as the Brownfield Director for the Mass DEP.

17 I graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1995 with a Bachelor of
18 Science degree in Environmental Design and Urban Planning.

19 I currently serve on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the Environmental
20 Business Council and on the Board of Directors of New England Women in Energy and
21 the Environment.

1 **Q. Have you previously testified before the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission**
2 **or other regulatory bodies?**

3 A. No, I have not previously provided testimony to the New Hampshire Public Utilities
4 Commission (the “Commission”) or other regulatory bodies.

5 **II. MERCURY BOILER UNITS 1 & 2 REMOVAL PROJECT**

6 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

7 A. My testimony presents the Company’s report on the Mercury Boiler Units 1 and 2 Removal
8 Project at Schiller Station (“Project Report”). The report is dated November 27, 2019 and
9 was prepared by the PSNH Project Team in anticipation of the Company’s current filing
10 to commence the Commission’s audit of divestiture-related costs. The Project Report is
11 included as Attachment CAF-1 to my testimony.

12 **Q. Who are the other members of the PSNH Project Team that participated in the**
13 **preparation of the Project Report?**

14 A. As noted in the Project Report, the PSNH Project Team also includes Ellen Angley, Senior
15 Vice President, Eversource Energy Wind Project Execution; Daniel Watton, former
16 Manager of Environmental Field Response for Eversource Energy Service Company;
17 Steve Raymond, Senior Vice President of Construction Management at GZA
18 GeoEnvironmental, Inc., which is a third-party engineering and construction-management
19 firm under contract with PSNH; and William Smagula, the former Vice President of
20 Generation for PSNH. The Project Team responsible for the Mercury Boiler Units 1 and
21 2 Removal Project is a highly experienced, multi-disciplinary team of professionals that

1 was engaged on the Company's divestiture-related activities, including the Schiller
2 mercury boiler removal project.

3 **Q. Please describe the Project Report.**

4 A. The Project Report provides a comprehensive review and documentation of the mercury
5 boiler removal project. The report provides an overview of Schiller Station, including
6 relevant history and engineering and operating characteristics of the plant (Section I); a
7 description of the engagement of the project contractor, including the bid process and
8 resulting contract (Section II); a discussion of the controls that were in place for project
9 management and oversight (Section III); a comprehensive project chronology (Section IV);
10 an analysis of the safety stand down (Section V); and a full description and documentation
11 of the project costs (Section VI).

12 **Q. When did the Company begin work on the Mercury Boiler Units 1 and 2 Removal**
13 **Project at Schiller Station?**

14 A. The Company commenced work on the project shortly after the Commission issued its
15 Order No. 25,596 in Docket No. DE 16-817 on October 21, 2016, approving the
16 Company's request to undertake the project, as recommended by the Commission's auction
17 advisor. This decision and the related sequence of events are discussed in more detail in
18 the testimony of Company witness Robert A. Bersak.

19 **Q. When was the Project completed?**

20 A. Demolition was completed in December 2018, with restoration and post-demolition
21 sampling and risk assessment activities continuing through June 2019. Ultimately,

1 asbestos abatement, demolition, and offsite disposal of Schiller Units 1 and 2 and
2 restoration of the post-demolition site was substantially complete on March 29, 2019. As
3 noted, the Project Report contains a comprehensive project chronology.

4 **Q. What was the cost of the project?**

5 A. The total direct cost of the project was \$48.433 million as detailed in Section VI of the
6 Project Report.

7 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

8 A. Yes.