

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 19-133

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

Petition for Preauthorization of Westmoreland Clean Innovation Project

ORDER OF NOTICE

On July 31, 2019, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a petition for preauthorization of its proposed “Westmoreland Clean Innovation Project” (the Project). The proposed Project is intended to comply with a Commission directive in Order No. 26,124 (April 30, 2018) issued in the alternative net metering tariff proceeding, Docket No. DE 16-576. In that order, the Commission directed stakeholders to “consider implementing one or more demonstration projects using DG [renewable energy distributed generation] plus storage to address distribution system capacity upgrade avoidance or deferral. Any such demonstration project would be implemented only if it were filed as a formal proposal and approved by the Commission.” Order No. 26,124 at 16.

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://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2019/19-133.html>.

The Project would consist of three components. The first is an energy efficiency component. The second component would address demand response through a “bring your own device” (BYOD) program, in which Eversource would provide incentives for verifiable load reductions resulting from the use of customer-owned behind the meter devices. Third, Eversource would install a 1.7MW/7.1MWh battery storage system, which it would own.

According to Eversource, the Project would address reliability issues in the Town of Westmoreland, New Hampshire, which is served by a non-looped distribution circuit and has experienced multiple outages since 2012. Eversource stated that, in addition to providing back-up power to customers in the Town of Westmoreland during outages, the battery storage system will be discharged by the Company during monthly system peaks to reduce regional transmission and capacity costs that would otherwise pass through to ratepayers. Eversource asserted that a battery storage system would provide net benefits to ratepayers when compared with other alternatives, such as constructing a 10-mile distribution line at the cost of \$6 million. The Project would be a demonstration project for future energy storage projects.

In this docket, Eversource seeks approval of the Project, but not recovery of its costs. Specifically, Eversource has requested the Commission to review the Project, determine that Eversource's decision to proceed with the project would be prudent, and preauthorize: (1) Eversource's proposed capital expenditure for the battery storage system, estimated at \$7 million with \$140,000 in annual operations and maintenance expense; and (2) additional marketing and outreach efforts to target energy efficiency projects in Westmoreland. The Company is not requesting specific approval of the BYOD component of the project in this docket. As in Docket No. DE 17-189, in which the Commission approved Liberty's battery storage pilot program, the Commission would review the prudence of Eversource's execution of the Project at a later date when Eversource sought recovery of the completed Project's costs.

The costs of the energy storage component of the Project would be recovered through a reconciling rate mechanism, the Distribution Rate Adjustment Mechanism, for which Eversource seeks approval in its pending rate case in Docket No. DE 19-057. The costs of the energy

efficiency and bring your own device components of the Project would be recovered through the system benefits charge (SBC).

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether Eversource's proposed Project is consistent with the Commission's directive in Order No. 26,124; whether the Project would be in the public interest pursuant to RSA 374-G:5, II; whether the use of SBC funds for targeted energy efficiency and load management is consistent RSA 374-F:4, VIII; whether the Project will provide a net benefit to Eversource customers; whether the estimated costs of the Project are prudent and reasonable; and other issues regarding the Project's implementation and timing, information availability to customers, data collection and analysis, and customer privacy protection. 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 a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on September 20, 2019 at 1:00 pm, at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Eversource, the Staff of the Commission, and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition; and it is

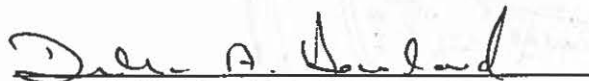
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than September 12, 2019, in a newspaper with general circulation in

those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before September 17, 2019; 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 September 17, 2019, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before September 20, 2019.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirtieth day of August, 2019.


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.

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