

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-119

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

Proposed Tariff Amendments to Residential Time-of-Day Rate

ORDER OF NOTICE

The settlement agreement approved by the Commission in Order No. 26,433 (December 15, 2020) required Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource), within six months of approval, to propose amendments to its tariff revising its optional time-of-day rate (R-OTOD) for residential customers. *Id.* at 16, 22. On June 15, 2021, Eversource filed proposed amendments to its R-OTOD with the supporting testimony of Edward A. Davis, Eversource's Director of Rates, and related attachments. This filing 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 <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2021/21-119.html>.

As proposed, Eversource's amended R-OTOD (R-OTOD-2) would establish a reduced peak period and new pricing, which would result in lower bills across a range of peak usage percentages. R-OTOD-2 would reduce the current 13-hour peak period under R-OTOD (from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.) to a 7-hour peak period: 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., during non-holiday weekdays. Eversource stated that R-OTOD-2 would retain R-OTOD's monthly charge of \$32.08, but R-OTOD-2 was designed to be revenue-neutral with the residential distribution and transmission rates approved in Rate R, Eversource's regular power and light rate. Eversource explained that

the residual class revenue requirement would be collected through TOD kilowatt-hour (kWh) charges.

By comparing customer bills under R-OTOD-2 at various usage levels, using the residential Rate R class average proportion of peak usage, which is 41 percent for the 13-hour peak period under R-OTOD and 24 percent for the 7-hour peak period, Eversource calculated that R-OTOD customers would see a reduction in their total bills across all usage levels if they switched to R-OTOD-2. For example, a residential customer using 650 kWh at class average peak percentages would see a reduction in their monthly bill of \$23.24 or 15.8 percent under R-OTOD-2. Eversource noted that the actual reduction in monthly bills would depend upon an individual customer's proportion of peak to total usage in a given month.

Eversource calculated that, depending upon the percentage of peak usage, it is likely that higher usage customers would have lower bills under R-OTOD-2, but lower usage customers would tend to have lower bills under Rate R. Eversource represented that it planned to work with customers to help them understand and evaluate their options. It noted that a meter change may be required for current R-OTOD customers who switch to R-OTOD-2 or Rate R, or for Rate R customers switching to R-OTOD-2.

Eversource requested the Commission to approve R-OTOD-2 and to provide it with transition time before the implementation date, so that the Eversource could do the necessary customer outreach. If R-OTOD-2 is approved, Eversource requested the Commission to determine its implementation date.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to Eversource's proposed R-OTOD-2 is consistent with the settlement agreement approved by the Commission in Order No. 26,433 (December 15, 2020); whether Eversource's proposed R-OTOD-2, if approved, would result in

rates that are just and reasonable, as required by RSA 374:2, and by RSA 378:5 and :7; and, if Eversource's proposed R-OTOD-2 is approved, when it should be implemented and what customer outreach should be required. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

With the expiration of the declared State of Emergency, the Commission must now comply with all requirements of RSA chapter 91-A, including the requirement that a quorum of a public body must be physically present at the location specified as the location of the public meeting in the meeting notice. The Commission is aware that not all parties, including regulated utilities, have returned to full in-person work environments. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, the Commission intends to provide a hybrid approach to hearings to accommodate those who are remote and those who are physically present. A quorum of Commissioners will be physically present within a hearing room for all Commission hearings beginning June 14, 2021. In order to facilitate the hybrid approach, the Commissioners will also continue to participate on the web-enabled platform. Parties and the public may continue to participate in hearings remotely using the Commission's web-enabled platform.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a prehearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15, at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on August 25, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the filing and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15. Commissioners will be present in the hearing room and will also use a web-enabled platform to conduct the hearing. Members of the public who wish to access the prehearing conference remotely may do so by [clicking here](#). **If you have any difficulty**

obtaining access to this remote event, please notify the Commission by calling (603) 271-2431 as soon as possible. Parties and members of the public wishing to attend the hearing in person are encouraged to register in advance, on or before August 20, 2021, by calling (603) 271-2431; and it is

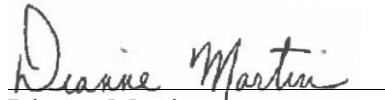
FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the prehearing conference, the parties, including Eversource, the Department of Energy, and any intervenors, hold a web-enabled remote technical session to review the filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than one business day after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before August 20, 2021. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than one business day after the date of issue; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to Eversource, the Department of Energy, and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before August 20, 2021, 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. Admin. R., Puc 203.17. Pursuant to the secretarial letter issued on March 17, 2020, which is posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Secretarial%20Letters/20200317-SecLtr-Temp-Changes-in-Filing-Requirements.pdf>, any party seeking to intervene may elect to submit this filing in electronic form; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before August 25, 2021.

So ordered, this ninth day of August, 2021.


Dianne Martin
Presiding Officer
Chairwoman

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.

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-119

Printed: 8/9/2021

Email Addresses

ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov
brian.d.buckley@energy.nh.gov
jessica.chiavara@eversource.com
thomas.c.frantz@energy.nh.gov
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov
karen.j.moran@energy.nh.gov
elizabeth.r.nixon@energy.nh.gov
amanda.o.noonan@energy.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov