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March 25, 2024

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Docket No. DE 24-041, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy Petition for Review of Storm Expenses
Response to DOE's *Objection to Eversource's Request for Expedited Review and DOE's Request that Parties be Directed to Propose a Procedural Schedule*

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource" or the "Company") submits this letter in response to the Department of Energy ("DOE") "Objection to Eversource's Request for Expedited Review and DOE's Request that Parties be Directed to Propose a Procedural Schedule" filed on March 22, 2024 ("Objection").

First, a point of clarification: Eversource did not request "expedited review" of its Petition for Review of Storm Expenses. The Company fully anticipated that a prudence determination on the Company's storm costs would take some time and the Company worked to get the filing in so as to allow ample time for a careful review. The DOE appears to acknowledge this in stating that "the Company *implicitly* requests expedited review." Objection at 1 (emphasis added). Eversource stated only that it "seeks to complete the prudence review for the 2022-2023 Storm Events costs in advance of the next base distribution rate case filing in the interest of administrative efficiency." Petition at 4. The Company has no opposition whatsoever to the establishment of a reasonable schedule allowing DOE the time it needs to conduct its review of the Company's petition and associated documentation, nor did the Company's filing indicate any such opposition.

DOE also asserts that "Eversource could have sought review (and recovery) sooner than it has, and the [DOE] ought not be required to rush its review as a result of Eversource's delay." Objection at 2. Again, Eversource is not requesting a "rush" in the review. Also, Eversource submitted its comprehensive storm expense review filing at the earliest possible point, which still took some time because the full extent of such costs was not known sooner, and still remains subject to revision as additional invoices from third party vendors are finalized. External vendors frequently produce their invoices on a delayed time period following a storm and the Company then conducts an audit process before the documentation is produced for the regulatory prudence review. *See*, Testimony of Chen, Landry and Cosentino, March 8, 2024, at 13-14.

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We recognize that the Company's storm filing is substantial, in terms of both the dollar amounts involved and the detailed documentation supporting recovery of those costs. Eversource is fully committed to working collaboratively with the DOE and other parties to establish a procedural schedule that affords the DOE a reasonable period of time in which to complete its audit and develop its recommendation.

The Company will begin working in earnest with the DOE and other docket participants on a consensus procedural schedule in the very near term, with a proposed schedule submitted for review and approval by the Commission as soon as practicable.

Consistent with current Commission policy, this filing is being made electronically only and paper copies will not follow. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ David K. Wiesner

David K. Wiesner
Senior Counsel

cc: DE 24-041 Service List