

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 24-046

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

2024 Energy Service Solicitations

COMMENCEMENT OF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING AND NOTICE OF HEARING

On March 19, 2024, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource or the Company) filed a letter notifying the Commission of its proposed 2024 default energy service solicitation scheduled for the Company's large and small customer groups. All docket filings, other than any information subject to confidential treatment, are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.nh.gov/regulatory/Docketbk/2024/24-046.html.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Commission approved the overall process used by Eversource to solicit default energy service supply for its large and small customer groups in Order No. 26,092 (December 29, 2017) issued in Docket No. DE 17-113, which the Commission confirmed in Order No. 26,733 (November 22, 2022), issued in Docket No. DE 22-021. See Order No. 26,733 at 5-6 (denying Eversource's petition to amend default energy service solicitation process). Pursuant to a Commission directive in Order No. 26,920 (December 21, 2023), Eversource submitted certain modifications to the default energy service solicitation process for the small customer group, which introduced an ISO-New England direct market procurement feature, and the Commission approved this proposal in Order No. 26,994 (April 12, 2024), *clarified by* Order No. 27,005 (May 6, 2024), issued in Docket No. DE 23-043. The large customer group consists of customers taking service under Primary General Service Rate GV, Large General

Service Rate LG, Backup Service Rate B, and rates for any private outdoor area lighting associated with these accounts. Order No. 26,092 at 5. The small customer group consists of customers taking service under Residential Rates R and R-Time of Day, General Service Rates G and G-Time of Day, Outdoor Lighting Rate OL, and Energy Efficient Outdoor Lighting Rate EOL. *Id.*

According to that process, as modified for the small customer group by Order No. 26,994, Eversource procures the power supply for customers who do not take energy service from a competitive supplier by issuing separate requests for proposals (RFPs) to the competitive energy market twice a year for its large and small customer groups. *See Id.* at 13, 15-16. The RFPs solicit power supply requirements for each customer group for two 6-month periods, one beginning February 1 and the other beginning August 1. *See Id.* at 10, 13, 15-16.

Eversource's March 19, 2024 filing indicated the dates for, among other things: (1) the issuance of its RFP; (2) the selection of the award group; (3) the filing of its petition and supporting documents with the Commission; and (4) the requested date of the Commission's decision, which is June 20, 2024. Eversource will solicit 100 percent of power supply requirements for the large customer group for the 6-month period beginning August 1, 2024. *See Id.* at 6, 10-11. The rate for the large customer group will vary each month according to the monthly pricing of the winning bidder. *See Id.* at 11. For the small customer group, 87.5 percent of the load would be served through requirements contracts with third-party energy suppliers through the RFP process. Order No. 26,994 at 2. For the remaining 12.5 percent market-procurement tranche, Eversource would procure that portion from the Day-Ahead ISO-New England regional energy market. *Id.* at 3. A single default energy service six-month rate would be developed for the small customer group by Eversource using a proxy-price

methodology, which would blend expected market prices for the market-procurement tranche with the RFP-secured prices for the requirements contracts for the remaining 87.5 percent of small customer group load, subject to future reconciliation. See Order No. 26,994 at 2-4; *see also* Order No. 27,005 at 1-2.

II. ISSUES PRESENTED

The filing presents, *inter alia*, the following issues: whether Eversource's power supply procurement process is consistent with Order No. 26,092 (December 29, 2017), confirmed by Order No. 26,733 (November 22, 2022), as modified by Order No. 26,994 (April 12, 2024), and RSA 374-F:3, V(c)-(e); and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable as required by RSA 374:2, and RSA 378:5 and :7. Also, the Commission will assess potential improvements to the proxy-price development methodology for the market-based 12.5 percent procurement tranche for the small customer group, including additional market-based tranches in future default energy procurements, and the potential extension of an ISO-New England market-based procurement component to the large customer group in the next default energy procurement rounds. Accordingly, an adjudicative proceeding will be convened to address these issues.

The Commission will be conducting any hearings scheduled in this matter in person. The Commission will consider requests to conduct hearings using a hybrid format to permit remote participation by a specific individual only if the Commission has determined that a sufficient reason has been provided for why that individual would be unable to attend in person. Any party requesting that a specific individual be permitted to participate remotely should file a written request with the Commission's Clerk's Office no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing date. If the Commission determines that one or more individuals will be permitted to appear

remotely, then individuals in the Commission's hearing room, including the Commissioners, will be broadcast on a web-enabled platform.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that an adjudicative proceeding be commenced for the purpose of reviewing and resolving the foregoing issues pursuant to RSA chapter 541-A, RSA 374-F:3, V(c)-(e), RSA 374:2, RSA 378:5 and :7, and the Commission's procedural rules; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a hearing in this matter at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on June 18, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. Three hours shall be allotted for this hearing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the New Hampshire Department of Energy shall file its position regarding Eversource's petition, including the reasons for this position, on or before May 31, 2024; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any entity or individual may petition to intervene and seek to be admitted as a party in this proceeding. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any entity or individual seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to Eversource and any other parties on the service list, on or before May 21, 2024. The petition shall state the facts demonstrating how the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before May 28, 2024; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that parties shall file any proposed exhibits, written testimony, motions, or other documents intended to become part of the record in this proceeding with the Commission. 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>, all Commission rules requiring the filing of paper copies are suspended until further notice. Parties may elect to submit any filing in electronic form unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Filings will be considered filed as of the time the electronic copy is received by the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that routine procedural inquiries may be made by contacting the Commission's Clerk's Office at (603) 271-2431 or ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov. All requests to the Commission should be made in a written pleading filed with the Commission. Unless otherwise authorized by law, *ex parte* communications are prohibited; and it is

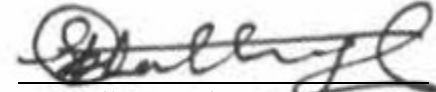
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than two business days after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before May 10, 2024. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than two business days after the date of issue; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any hearings in this matter shall be conducted in accordance with the attached hearing guidelines.

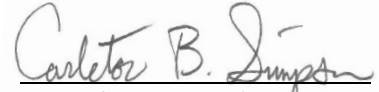
So ordered, this sixth day of May, 2024.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the 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#: 24-046

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