

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 24-035

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

**Petition for Approval of Change in
Regulatory Reconciliation Adjustment Rate**

COMMENCEMENT OF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING AND NOTICE OF HEARING

On March 1, 2024, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a petition requesting that the Commission approve revised Regulatory Reconciliation Adjustment (RRA) rates for effect on August 1, 2024. In support of its petition, Eversource filed the combined direct testimony of Eversource Energy Service Company (ESC) employees Robert D. Allen (Manager of Coordination, Strategy, and Innovation for Vegetation Management), Ian J. Farley (Supervisor of Vegetation Management), Elli Ntakou (Manager of System Resilience and Reliability Planning), and Adam V. Mierzwa (Director of Distribution Engineering) (Combined Testimony), and related attachments. 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/2024/24-035.html.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The RRA mechanism was established in a settlement agreement that the Commission approved in Order No. 26,433 (December 15, 2020), issued in Docket No. DE 19-057 (Settlement Agreement). The RRA is a component of distribution rates that is adjusted annually to account for over- or under-recoveries in prior calendar years with regard to certain types of costs: (1) annual regulatory assessments and special assessments for consultants retained by the New Hampshire Department of Energy

(DOE), the Commission, and the Office of the Consumer Advocate; (2) calendar year over- or under-collections from the Vegetation Management Program (VMP); (3) property tax expenses, as compared to the amount in base distribution rates; (4) lost-base distribution revenues associated with net metering; and (5) annual reconciliation of the storm cost amortization. *Pub. Serv. Co. of N.H.*, Order No. 26,863 at 1–2 (July 28, 2023).

The Settlement Agreement requires Eversource to submit its RRA rate filing by March 1 of each year. Settlement Agreement, Subsection 9.3. Eversource must then update its filing by May 1. *Id.*

On May 1, 2024, Eversource filed additional testimony and supporting attachments from ESC employees Yi-An Chen and Scott Anderson (Chen and Anderson Testimony). According to this testimony, Eversource calculated its RRA revenue requirement as of August 1, 2024 as (\$2,369,116), which is a 191.42 percent decrease in the total RRA revenue requirement when compared to last year. Chen and Anderson Testimony at Bates Page 13. According to Eversource, this significant decrease was largely driven by over-recoveries of property tax expenses and storm cost amortization. *Id.* The proposed RRA rate is a credit of \$0.00031 per kilowatt hour. *Id.* at Bates Page 19.

II. ISSUES PRESENTED

The filing presents, *inter alia*, the following issues: whether Eversource’s annual RRA filing complies with the terms of the Settlement Agreement; whether Eversource appropriately calculated the proposed RRA revenue requirement and RRA rates; and whether implementation of the proposed RRA rates will result in just and reasonable rates, as required by RSA 374:2, and RSA 378:5 and :7. 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 374:2, and 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 26, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. Three hours shall be allotted for this hearing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the DOE shall file its position regarding Eversource's petition, including the reasons for this position, as well as report from DOE Audit Division Staff showing the results of an audit of the costs proposed for recovery in this proceeding, on or before June 19, 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 June 10, 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 June 20, 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

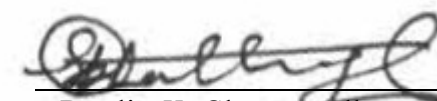
by publishing a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than two business days after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before May 20, 2024. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website 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.

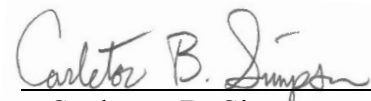
So ordered, this third day of May, 2024.



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#: 24-035

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