

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-117

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

Petition for Adjustment to Stranded Cost Recovery Charge Rate

ORDER OF NOTICE

On June 17, 2021, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a petition for an adjustment to its stranded cost recovery charge (SCRC) rate for effect on a service-rendered basis on August 1, 2021. Eversource is currently billing an SCRC rate of 1.431 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for customers in its residential Rate R class. In this filing, Eversource filed a residential SCRC rate of 0.889 cents per kWh.

Eversource made this filing consistent with the requirements of the 2015 Restructuring Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission in Order No. 25,920 (July 1, 2016). Pursuant to the Agreement, Eversource divested its generation assets and now uses a competitively bid energy service procurement process to set its energy service rate. In addition, Eversource was authorized to recover stranded costs associated with divestiture through a new SCRC mechanism. The SCRC mechanism consists of two parts. Part 1 costs are composed of divestiture costs that are securitized by Rate Reduction Bonds (RRBs) approved by the Commission in Order No. 26,099 (January 30, 2018). Pursuant to the RRB True-Up Mechanism approved in Order No. 26,099, the Part 1 RRB charge is periodically adjusted to ensure that RRB charge collections are sufficient to meet RRB payment requirements. The true-up RRB charge is included in the calculation of the SCRC rate.

Part 2 costs consist of “ongoing” stranded costs, including the over-market value of energy purchased from independent power producers (IPPs) and the amortization of payments previously made for IPP buy-downs and buy-outs approved by the Commission. As part of divestiture, Part 2 incorporates new stranded costs, including the costs of retained power entitlements and any unsecuritized, prudently incurred decommissioning, environmental, or other residual costs or liabilities related to the generating facilities. Part 2 costs also include expenses associated with the Burgess BioPower and Lempster purchase power agreements previously approved by the Commission.

Pursuant to Order No. 25,664 (May 9, 2014), the SCRC charge is offset by Eversource applying a credit consisting of excess proceeds from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auctions. Eversource’s calculation of the RGGI credit is a change from the current credit of 0.198 cents per kWh to a credit of 0.279 cents per kWh.

On January 30, 2020, the Commission issued Order No. 26,331, approving an agreement to adjust the Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) between Eversource and Burgess BioPower to implement the terms of 2018 N.H. Laws, Chapter 340, “An Act requiring the public utilities commission to revise its order affecting the Burgess BioPower plant in Berlin.” As part of that adjustment the over-market costs in excess of the cap, as defined in the PPA, will be recovered in current rates. Recovery of those costs is accomplished as part of the SCRC referred to as the “Chapter 340 Adder”.

According to Eversource, the estimated decrease in SCRC rates, compared with the February 1, 2021 rates, is due to slightly higher Part 1 costs and significantly lower Part 2 costs as well as a prior period over-collection.

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 <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2021/21-117.html>.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether the costs Eversource claims for recovery through the SCRC are consistent with the categories of eligible costs as set forth in the 2015 Settlement Agreement; whether Eversource appropriately calculated Part 1 and Part 2 SCRC costs; whether costs claimed for recovery were prudently incurred; and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable, as required by RSA 378:5 and RSA 378:7. 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, all parties participating in the hearing room will 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 hearing on the merits of the issues presented in the Eversource petition at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord,

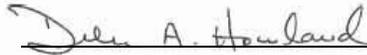
New Hampshire, on July 22, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners will be present in the hearing room and will use a web-enabled platform to conduct the hearing. Members of the public who wish to access the hearing may do so [by clicking here](#). **If you have any difficulty obtaining access to this remote 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 July 19, 2021, by calling (603) 271-2431. Parties will be provided with additional instructions prior to the hearing; 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 July 19, 2021. In addition, the Executive Director 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 and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before July 22, 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 July 22, 2021.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-fourth day of June, 2021.



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.

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 21-117

Printed: 6/24/2021

Email Addresses

ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov
richard.chagnon@puc.nh.gov
jessica.chiavara@eversource.com
Stephen.Eckberg@puc.nh.gov
tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
F.Ross@puc.nh.gov