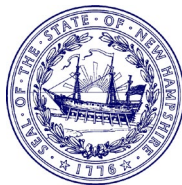


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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

November 12, 2024

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

Re: Docket No. DE 24-041 Public Service Company of New Hampshire, d/b/a Eversource Energy, Petition for Review of Storm Expenses [ 11/30/22 – 3/13/23], *DOE's Assented-To Request for Extension of Remaining Deadlines and Assented -To Proposed Amended Procedural Schedule*

Dear Chairman Goldner:

As explained in further detail below, the parties have engaged in extensive discovery. In order to allow for a full review of pending discovery requests, the New Hampshire Department of Energy ("DOE" or "Department") requests a one-week extension of the November 15 deadline to file testimony and related changes to the remaining procedural deadlines. See Procedural Order Re Proposed Procedural Schedule (May 10, 2024). This request does not include a request to change the January 22, 2024 hearing date. For the reasons explained below, the Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource (Eversource or the Company) and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) assent to the relief requested.

In this docket, Eversource seeks review and approval to recover in excess of \$230 million in storm expenses. The parties have engaged in extensive discovery. The parties held additional technical sessions on October 16 and October 28, 2024. The Department has issued six sets of discovery, three as scheduled and additional technical session (TS) data requests, TS Set 1 (issued September 26, 2024) TS Set 2 (issued October 22, 2024) and TS Set 3 (issued October 31, 2024). Some key responses remain outstanding. The Company has been generally responsive, including follow-up data requests issued after technical sessions, which have been subject to shortened timelines and were not explicitly contemplated in the approved procedural schedule. On occasion, some data has been inconsistent with prior responses or in need of update. In recognition of the need for DOE to have complete and correct responses to all of its questions, the Company and the OCA assent to the relief requested.

Further, on or about July 2024, the Department obtained the assistance of consultants Joe DeVirgilio and Ron Willoughby.

In light of the above and in order to allow for a full review of pending discovery requests, the Department is requesting a one-week extension of the November 15 deadline for Department testimony and related changes to the remaining procedural schedule. This request does not include a request to change the existing hearing date. The Department proposes the following adjusted procedural schedule:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Existing Date</u>	<u>Proposed New Date</u>
DOE Testimony	11.15.24	11.22.24
Eversource DRs to DOE/Intervenors	11.20.24	12.04.24
DOE Response to Eversource	12.6.24	12.20.24
Eversource Rebuttal	12.9.24	01.06.25
Tech Session/Settlement Conference	12.13.24 9am noon	01.10.25 9 am to 1pm
Exhibits, Witness List, S/A	01.15.25	01.15.25
Hearing - unchanged	01.22.25	01.22.25

The Department’s request for an extension and an amended procedural schedule is consistent with Commission requirements. See N.H. Code of Admin. Rules Puc 202.04. Circumstances “would cause undue hardship or inconvenience unless the request is granted” because without additional time to fully review and analyze the Company’s data response, the Department’s testimony will not be fully informed and thus the Commission would not have the full benefit of the Department’s Analysts’ review in this extraordinarily large storm docket. In the opinion of the Department, the extension would not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party. See id.

The Department has sought consent of the other party to this docket. See id. As stated above, Eversource and the OCA assent to the relief requested. Consistent with the Commission’s current practices, this letter is being filed only in electronic form.

Sincerely,  
*/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer*  
 Mary E. Schwarzer  
 Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner  
 Department of Energy

cc: Service List

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