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September 20, 2024

Via electronic mail only

Daniel Goldner, Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: Docket No. DE 24-070

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
Proposed Procedural Schedule and Request to Set Hearing Dates

Chairman Goldner:

Consistent with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) Order No. 27,029, August 22, 2024 Procedural Order, and September 13, 2024 Procedural Order, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”), has collaborated with the parties in the above-captioned proceeding to develop a procedural schedule consistent with the Commission’s directives. As explained herein, the parties were unable to achieve full consensus of the procedural schedule, in particular regarding proposed dates for hearings, which the Commission originally set for March. The Company respectfully requests that the Commission adopt the attached procedural schedule and establish dates for hearings between April 1, 2025 and April 18, 2025.

In Order No. 27,029, the Commission directed Eversource, with concurrence of the parties, to file a procedural schedule by August 1, 2024,¹ with the proviso that certain dates and deadlines be incorporated in the schedule and remain unchanged. Specifically, the Commission requested prehearing technical conferences on October 2, 3, 8, and 9, 2024, November 19 and 20, 2024 and January 7 and 8, 2025;² a deadline for a Settlement Agreement by Eversource by February 3, 2025, and evidentiary hearings on March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20, 2025. These deadlines were established consistent with the suspension of the Company’s proposed Tariffs with an Order date of June 11, 2025.

Some of the intervenors, including the Department of Energy (“DOE”), raised concerns that holding hearings in March was not sufficient time to receive full due process on the

¹ During the July 22, 2024 Pre-hearing Conference, the Commission announced that it was extending the deadline for filing the procedural schedule until August 30, 2024 to provide the Commission an opportunity to review and rule on the petitions to intervene. On August 22, 2024, the Commission further extended the deadline until September 20, 2024.

² The Rate LG Customer Consortium respectfully requests that one of the Commission’s January prehearing technical conferences include rate design as a topic. There have been no objections to this request.

Company's proposal. To accommodate the intervenors' requests, the Company proposes to extend the final order date to July 15, 2025. Extending the deadline for a final decision will provide an additional month of process. The Company also respectfully proposes that the Commission extend the deadline for a Settlement Agreement and dates for hearings by a corresponding one month (i.e., deadline for a Settlement Agreement in early to mid-March, and hearings in early to mid-April) to accommodate this modification.

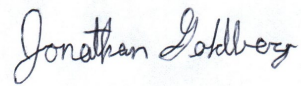
Based on the proposed one-month extension of the deadlines and dates established by the Commission, the Company proposed a procedural schedule for the parties' consideration. The Company adopted many of the requests proposed by intervenors including: DOE's request to extend certain discovery periods, the Office of the Consumer Advocate's ("OCA") request to adjust the dates of certain of the parties' technical sessions, and other requests for changes due to schedule conflicts. DOE has stressed the importance that intervenor testimony not be due until January 24, 2025 and that the settlement agreement not be due until at least March 14, 2025. The proposed deadline for intervenor testimony is late in the procedural schedule and required the Company to make procedural compromises, including reviewing all intervenor testimony and issuing data requests in just three business days, as well as other reduced process periods. In doing this the Company has sought to accommodate as many of the intervenor requests as possible. Based on the collaboration of the parties, many parties, including DOE, have agreed to the dates in the attached procedural schedule, with the exception of hearings.

Despite active collaboration, the parties have been unable to identify dates for hearings in early to mid-April that are universally acceptable to the parties. The Company has been informed that the OCA has a conflict the week of April 14th and the legal director for DOE has a conflict on April 1st and 2nd. Multiple key Company witnesses have conflicts the week of April 21st, so hearings are not possible that week. Accordingly, the parties have been unable to reach consensus on proposed alternative hearing dates to those established by the Commission.

Recognizing that, except for hearing dates, many parties, but not all, have agreed to the attached procedural schedule, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission adopt the procedural schedule and set hearings on the merits for dates between April 1 and April 18, 2025. While the Company acknowledges that the last two days of hearings may not be necessary, if the hearings are needed and held the week of April 21, 2025, key Company witnesses that will likely be required are not available. However, the Company does not object to the Commission's designated dates and can provide a proposed procedural schedule reflecting those dates as an alternative to that negotiated by the parties, should the Commission prefer that to the negotiated schedule.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration of the Company's proposed procedural schedule. Consistent with current Commission policy, this filing is being made electronically only; paper copies will not follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jonathan A. Goldberg, Esq.

cc: DE 24-070 Service List

Key: **Bold Font**-- Event in PUC order-- Hearings and settlement deadline delayed one month.
 Gray - background meeting (in-person or remote).

Date	Event
07/31/24	Commission Order No. 24,041 on Temp Rates eff 8/1
08/08/24	Rolling Discovery to Eversource Commences (responses provided within ten business days), Ends November 15, 2024
09/20/24	Procedural Schedule Due--- to include intervenors (rescheduled by PUC in August 22, 2024 Procedural Order)
10/02/24	Commission-attended Tech Conference Topic: PBR
10/03/24	Commission-attended Tech Conference Topic: PBR
10/08/24	Commission-attended Tech Conference Topic: PBR
10/09/24	Commission-attended Tech Conference Topic: PBR
10/10/24	Parties' Tech Session #1 Remote 9 am to 4 pm
10/23/24	Parties' Tech Session #2 Remote 9 am to 4 pm
10/24/24	Parties' Tech Session #3 Remote 9 am to 4 pm
11/15/24	Rolling Discovery to Eversource Concludes (responses to data requests issued between Nov. 8th and Nov. 15th are due by Dec. 6th).
11/19/24	Commission-attended Tech Conference Topics: TBD
11/20/24	Commission-attended Tech Conference Topics: TBD
12/06/24	Eversource responses to rolling discovery - last date
12/11/24	Parties' Tech Session #4 Remote 9 am to 4 pm
12/12/24	Parties' Tech Session #5 Remote 9 am to 4 pm
12/17/24	Tech Session DRs to Eversource
01/06/24	Eversource response to Tech Session DRs
01/07/25	Commission-attended Tech Conference Topics: TBD
01/08/25	Commission-attended Tech Conference Topics: TBD
01/24/25	DOE, OCA and Intervenor Testimony
01/29/25	Eversource DRs to Intervenor and Other Parties'/Intervenors' DRs to each other.
02/12/25	Intervenor DR responses to Eversource and other parties due
02/13/25	Tech Session (if needed)/Settlement Conference - 10 am to 4 pm Remote
02/14/25	Tech Session (if needed)/Settlement Conference - 10 am to 4 pm Remote
02/20/25	Settlement Conference - 1 pm to 4 pm Remote
02/26/25	Settlement Conference - 10 am to 4 pm Remote
02/27/25	Settlement Conference - 1 pm to 4pm Remote
03/04/25	Settlement Conference - 10 am to 4 pm Remote
03/06/35	Settlement Conference - 10 am to 4 pm Remote
03/11/25	Eversource Rebuttal Testimony (if needed)
03/14/25	Deadline for Parties file Settlement Agreement (if reached)
03/18/25	Tech Session on Rebuttal Testimony
TBD	Hearing on the Merits
TBD	Hearing on the Merits
TBD	Hearing on the Merits
TBD	Hearing on the Merits
TBD	Hearing on the Merits (if necessary)
TBD	Hearing on the Merits (if necessary)
05/02/25	Eversource Initial Brief (if requested and granted)
05/16/25	Intervenor Briefs (if requested and granted)
05/27/25	Eversource Rebuttal Brief (if requested and granted)
07/15/24	Order on permanent rates to issue, to take effect 8/1 /25