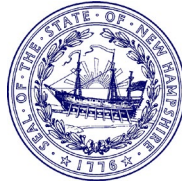


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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

September 23, 2024

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DE 24-070; Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy; Request for Change in Distribution Rates; Department of Energy Position on Proposed Schedule

Dear Chairman Goldner:

On September 20, 2024, Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) submitted a proposed schedule for the above caption proceeding. The Department of Energy (Department or DOE) supports the proposed schedule, which was the result of collaboration by Eversource, DOE and other parties, as described in Eversource’s letter of September 20. The Department requests that the Commission approve the schedule as filed, with hearing dates as shown below and minor changes to the briefing dates.

The Department submits this letter to provide its position on hearing days in April 2025. The undersigned counsel is not available for hearings on April 1 or 2, 2025 due to planned vacation. The Department understands that the same is true for the Consumer Advocate during for the week of April 14-18, 2025. Eversource has indicated that it has key witnesses unavailable for hearing the week of April 21-25, 2025, due to planned vacations. Given these conflicts, the Department urges the Commission to adopt the schedule below which avoids the conflict periods cited by the DOE and the OCA and schedules the two final days of hearings during the Eversource conflict period. This proposal also makes minor adjustments to the proposed briefing schedule.

DOE Proposed Dates	Eversource Proposed Dates	
03/18/25	03/18/25	Tech Session on Rebuttal Testimony
04/03/25	TBD	<b>Hearing on the Merits</b>
04/08/25	TBD	<b>Hearing on the Merits</b>
04/09/25	TBD	<b>Hearing on the Merits</b>
04/10/25	TBD	<b>Hearing on the Merits</b>
04/22/25	TBD	<b>Hearing on the Merits (if necessary)</b>
04/23/25	TBD	<b>Hearing on the Merits (if necessary)</b>
05/07/25	05/02/25	Eversource Initial Brief (if requested and granted)
05/21/25	05/16/25	Intervenor Briefs (if requested and granted)
05/30/25	05/27/25	Eversource Rebuttal Brief (if requested and granted)
07/15/25	07/15/24(sic)	<b>Order on permanent rates to issue, to take effect 8/1 /25</b>

The Department believes this approach is an appropriate balance of conflicting interests because: 1) the two hearing days that conflict with Eversource's witnesses schedule are the last in a series of hearings, are designated as "if necessary" and thus ultimately may not take place; 2) not all witnesses are needed at all hearings and the Department (and presumably other parties) will work with Eversource to allow the witnesses with conflicts on April 22 and 23, 2025 to appear on other days; and 3) Eversource is the petitioner in this case and should bear the burden of adjusting its schedule to resolve conflicts.

The Office of the Consumer Advocate has indicated that it supports the schedule set out by the Department herein.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Sincerely,

/s/ *Paul B. Dexter*

Paul B. Dexter, Esq.  
DOE Legal Director

cc: Service List (*electronically*)

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