

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**Docket No. DE 24-070**

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY  
Petition for Permanent Increase to Distribution Rates

**AARP NEW HAMPSHIRE'S PETITION FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE**

Pursuant to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission's (Commission's) Order No. 27,029, dated June 28, 2024 in this proceeding, New Hampshire Code Administrative Rules PUC 203.17 and PUC 203.02, and in accordance with the standards of RSA 541-A:32, **AARP New Hampshire**<sup>1</sup> hereby respectfully requests an order from the Commission granting it leave to intervene as a party in the above-captioned proceeding.

In support of this petition, AARP states as follows:

1. AARP New Hampshire, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities

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<sup>1</sup> In 1999, the "American Association of Retired Persons" changed its name to simply "AARP", in recognition of the fact that people do not have to be retired to become members. AARP will identify itself as "AARP New Hampshire", to reflect its focus on the issues and interests of concern to New Hampshire members of AARP in this rate case.

and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. AARP has approximately 212,000 members in New Hampshire, many of whom are residential electric customers of Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “Company”).

2. AARP New Hampshire’s interest in this matter and its grounds for intervention relate to the substantial (and above system average) increases proposed by Company in its electric rates overall for its residential customer class, along with proposed customer charge hike from the current residential monthly level of \$13.81 to \$19.81, which is an approximate 43.4% increase. AARP New Hampshire also wishes to explore issues related to the Company’s proposed performance-based ratemaking mechanism (“PBR”) in this docket, as it is a significant departure from traditional cost-based ratemaking methods and includes mechanisms to adjust rates in-between rate cases. AARP New Hampshire also has potential concerns related to rate design changes that may yet be proposed in this proceeding by other parties. AARP New Hampshire desires to advocate on behalf of residential electric customers in this rate case, to help ensure that their rates are no higher than a just and reasonable level.

3. More specifically, AARP New Hampshire’s interest relates to how Company’s rate increase proposal may directly and adversely impact those customers who are aged 50 and over. People aged 50 and over are generally more vulnerable to increases in energy prices. These consumers also devote a higher percentage of their total spending towards residential energy costs than do other age groups. Many older consumers have special needs and safety concerns regarding their access to electric service.

4. AARP New Hampshire's specific interest in this proceeding is not adequately represented by other parties. AARP New Hampshire believes that its intervention and participation in this proceeding would serve the public interest, and it wishes to become a party to this case for all purposes. Moreover, AARP New Hampshire can assure that its intervention would not unduly delay the proceedings nor prejudice the rights of any other party, as it will accept the procedural schedule as it stands.

5. AARP New Hampshire is aware that this petition to intervene is not filed within the Commission's set date for intervention requests. AARP New Hampshire has only now been able to secure representation and receive internal approvals for its formal participation in this case. AARP New Hampshire is willing to accept the posture of this proceeding as it stands, and will endeavor to present its recommendations in this matter within the procedural dates that have been approved by the Commission.

6. AARP New Hampshire agrees to accept electronic service. Service of any document or orders in this matter should be addressed to:

John B. Coffman  
John B. Coffman, LLC  
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Phone: 573-424-6779  
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WHEREFORE, AARP respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Petition for Leave to Intervene, entitling it to fully participate in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ John B. Coffman*

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John B. Coffman (MO Bar #36591)

Attorney and Rate Consultant

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Attorney to AARP New Hampshire

Dated: September 9, 2024

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the original and six (6) copies of the foregoing were hand delivered to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission and that electronic copies of the foregoing have been served via electronic filing with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission and with the Office of the Consumer Advocate and to the official electronic service list in Docket No. **DE 24-070**, on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

*/s/ John B. Coffman*

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