

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Docket No. DE 18-058

PETITION FOR RECOVERY OF STORM EXPENSES

Pursuant to Puc 202.01(a) and Puc 203.06, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “the Company”) hereby petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for approval to recover certain storm-related expenses from the Company’s Major Storm Cost Reserve (“MSCR” or “Reserve”). For those costs already audited by the Commission’s Audit Staff, Eversource is requesting that the audited costs be recovered from the MSCR. For those costs not yet audited, Eversource is requesting that those costs be audited and that the costs approved following the audit be permitted for recovery through the MSCR. In support of its Petition, Eversource says the following:

1. As part of the settlement regarding restructuring in Docket No. DE 99-099 Eversource established the MSCR for the purpose of covering the incremental costs associated with severe weather events. Under the MSCR, Eversource recovers from customers through its distribution rates a specified annual amount to be used in the event a Major Storm occurs.¹ Eversource simultaneously records a liability into its MSCR equal to the amount that it recovers from customers so that the recovery does not result in earnings accruing to Eversource. Costs incurred by Eversource for restoration of service during a weather event qualifying as a Major Storm are charged to the MSCR. The level of funding for the MSCR has varied over time, but has been at a level of \$12 million annually since 2013. Following Order No. 25,465 (February 26, 2013) in Docket No. DE

¹ A Major Storm is defined as an event that results in either: a) 10% or more of Eversource’s retail customers being without power in conjunction with more than 200 reported troubles; or b) more than 300 reported troubles during the event. See Order No. 25,465 at 1.

12-320 if certain defined criteria are met, Eversource may also charge specified pre-staging costs to the MSCR for events that do not ultimately rise to the level of a Major Storm.²

2. By this petition, Eversource seeks approval to recover the costs of seven weather events occurring between August 2011 and March 2013, which have already been audited by the Commission's Audit Staff and approved for cost recovery. These seven events are: (1) Major Storm Irene (2011); (2) Major Storm October Snowstorm (2011); (3) Major Storm Sandy (2012); (4) December 27, 2012 Pre-Staging event; (5) February 8, 2013 Pre-Staging event; (6) February 27, 2013 Pre-Staging event; and (7) March 19, 2013 Pre-Staging event. Eversource is requesting that the Commission approve the recovery of the audited costs from these events to be charged against the MSCR.

3. Further, Eversource seeks to have eight storm and pre-staging events that occurred from December 2013 through April 2016 audited, and to have the Commission approve the audited costs for recovery from the MSCR. These eight events are: (1) December 20, 2013 Pre-Staging Event; (2) March 12, 2014 Pre-Staging event; (3) November 26, 2014 Major Storm; (4) December 9, 2014 Pre-Staging event; (5) January 4, 2015 Pre-Staging event; (6) January 26, 2015 Pre-Staging event; (7) February 15, 2015 Pre-Staging event; and (8) April 3, 2016 Pre-Staging event. Eversource has or will provide all information and documentation necessary to facilitate the Commission's audit of these eight events.

4. With this petition, Eversource includes the testimony and exhibits of Marc E. Leménager to explain the costs of the events described above, describe the function of the Reserve, and to demonstrate Eversource's reasonable and appropriate accounting for the costs to be charged to the Reserve.

5. Of note, Eversource does not seek any adjustment to its distribution rates to account for the above. Rather, Eversource requests only that the Commission approve the

² See the Testimony of David L. Bickford in Docket No. DE 12-320 for a description of the types of pre-staging costs permitted to be charged to the MSCR.

recovery of costs from the Reserve, which was specifically designed to allow for the recovery of these costs.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission grant this petition and request, and order such further relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of April, 2018.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

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