

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

**Public Service Company of New Hampshire
Reconciliation of Energy Service and Stranded Costs for
Calendar Year 2017**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
FREDERICK B. WHITE**

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q. Please state your name.**

3 A. My name is Frederick B. White.

4 **Q. Mr. White, please provide your business address and title.**

5 A. My business address is 107 Selden St, Berlin, Connecticut. I am a Supervisor in the
6 Electric Supply department of Eversource Energy.

7 **Q. Mr. White, please describe your responsibilities at Eversource Energy.**

8 A. I supervise and provide analytical support required to fulfill the power supply
9 requirement obligations of Public Service of New Hampshire, d/b/a Eversource
10 Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”). This included, prior to the divestiture of
11 Eversource’s generation fleet, supporting the development of default Energy
12 Service (at times referred to herein as “ES”) rates, evaluation of the need to
13 supplement Eversource’s resources for the provision of energy service, and
14 acquisition of Financial Transmission Rights (“FTR”) to manage congestion.
15 Subsequent to the divestiture, this involves conducting solicitations for the
16 competitive procurement of power for energy service and the fulfillment of
17 Renewable Portfolio Standards (“RPS”) obligations. I am also responsible for on-
18 going activities associated with independent power producers and purchase power
19 agreements.

1 **II. PURPOSE**

2 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

3 A. The purpose of my testimony is to report on how Eversource's generation resources
4 and supplemental purchases were used to meet energy and capacity requirements
5 during the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. As a load-serving
6 entity, Eversource is responsible for having sufficient energy to meet the hourly
7 needs of its customers and is also responsible for its share of the ISO-NE capacity
8 requirement. Eversource is also the default provider of service to customers who
9 for any reason are otherwise without a service provider. Eversource meets its
10 requirements through its owned generation, PURPA-mandated purchases under
11 short term rates and long-term rate orders, power purchase agreements, and through
12 supplemental purchases of energy and capacity from the market. I will also discuss
13 Eversource's participation in the FTR auction process.

14 **III. ENERGY REQUIREMENTS**

15 **Q. Please summarize the generation resources that were available to meet**
16 **Eversource's energy requirements during the period January 1, 2017 through**
17 **December 31, 2017.**

18 A. Attachment FBW-1 lists the resource portfolio Eversource used to meet its
19 customers' energy requirements in 2017. As shown on that Attachment, available
20 energy resource capacity during this time period was about 1,207 MW for the
21 summer months. These values are based on ISO-NE seasonal claimed capability
22 ratings. The portfolio was comprised of the following resource groups:
23 hydroelectric (48 MW from nine stations), coal and biomass (576 MW from
24 Merrimack and Schiller Stations), gas/oil (419 MW from Newington and Wyman
25 4), combustion turbines (83 MW from five units), biomass (67.5 MW from Burgess
26 Biopower), wind (3 MW from Lempster), and non-utility generation (10.8 MW
27 from numerous PURPA-mandated purchases).

28 **Q. Please summarize how Eversource's resources met energy requirements**
29 **during 2017.**

30 A. Attachment FBW-2 summarizes how energy requirements were met and how
31 Eversource's generation resources were utilized by month during peak and off-peak

1 periods. During 2017, 47% of peak energy requirements and 52% of off-peak
2 energy requirements were met with the generation resources listed on FBW-1. The
3 remaining energy needs were met through bilateral or spot market energy
4 purchases.

5 **Q. Were Eversource's must-take resources and economic generation sufficient to**
6 **meet energy requirements in every month?**

7 A. No. Eversource's resources did not meet its customers' energy requirements in all
8 hours and, therefore, Eversource purchased a portion of its customers' needs. The
9 purchase requirement changed hourly and ranged from zero to a significant portion,
10 depending on the availability of resources, the level of demand, the migration of
11 customers to competitive energy service options, and the relative economics of
12 Eversource's generation versus purchase alternatives.

13 **Q. Please summarize how supplemental purchases were used to meet energy**
14 **requirements.**

15 A. Attachment FBW-3 summarizes the purchases made to supplement Eversource's
16 generating resources. Approximately 927 GWh of peak energy were purchased at
17 an average cost of \$40.38 per MWh (a total expense of \$37.4 million). 93 GWh
18 were purchased bilaterally at an average cost of \$37.51 per MWh (a total expense of
19 \$3.5 million). All 93 GWh of bilateral purchases were procured via fixed-price
20 monthly contracts to address forecasted supplemental requirements and planned
21 unit outages. The remaining 834 GWh of peak energy were procured via the ISO-
22 NE hourly spot market at an average cost of \$40.70 per MWh (a total expense of
23 \$34.0 million). (Figures may not add due to rounding.)

24 Approximately 808 GWh of off-peak energy were purchased at an average cost of
25 \$32.32 per MWh (a total expense of \$26.1 million). None were purchased
26 bilaterally. All GWh of off-peak energy were procured via the ISO-NE hourly spot
27 market. The combined expense for all supplemental energy purchases was \$63.6
28 million.

1 **Q. Were there any hours in which Eversource's supply resources exceeded energy**
2 **needs?**

3 A. Yes. Attachment FBW-3 also summarizes the hours in which supply resources,
4 including supplemental bilateral purchases, exceeded energy requirements resulting
5 in sales to the ISO-NE spot market. Approximately 33 GWh of peak energy were
6 sold at an average price of \$47.88 per MWh (total revenues of \$1.6 million). In
7 addition, approximately 32 GWh of off-peak energy were sold at an average price
8 of \$83.28 per MWh (total revenues of \$2.6 million). The combined revenue for all
9 surplus energy sales was \$4.2 million.

10 **Q. Please summarize how commodity prices (oil, natural gas, and energy) varied**
11 **during 2017.**

12 A. Attachment FBW-4 is a chart of the 2017 daily prices for crude oil (West Texas
13 Intermediate), natural gas (delivered to Algonquin Gate), and bilateral energy (peak
14 hours at the Massachusetts Hub). The chart shows the range of commodity and
15 energy market prices in 2017. The chart also shows the continuing correlation
16 between natural gas prices and energy purchase prices in New England. Note the
17 natural gas price spikes during winter months, due to space heating demand and
18 delivery constraints on the natural gas transportation pipeline system.

19 **Q. Please summarize the impact of commodity market volatility on the cost of**
20 **servicing Eversource's energy requirement.**

21 A. During 2017, 40% of energy requirements were met with coal, wood, and hydro
22 resources. Newington is capable of operating on either residual fuel oil or natural
23 gas, whichever is the more economic fuel. Because of the fuel diversity of
24 Eversource's supply portfolio, Eversource was largely insulated from volatility in
25 the natural gas market. During periods of high and volatile natural gas prices
26 Eversource's resource mix provided price stability, and during periods of low
27 natural gas prices load can be served through low priced market purchases while
28 Eversource's resources provided insurance against price increases.

1 **IV. CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS**

2 **Q. Please describe the net benefit to Eversource’s customers associated with the**
3 **Forward Capacity Market during 2017.**

4 A. Attachment FBW-5 summarizes Eversource’s monthly capacity market activity.
5 Over the course of the year capacity market revenues from generation resources
6 (including owned assets, non-utility IPPs, and the Hydro-Quebec Interconnection
7 Capacity Credits) exceeded capacity market expenses, resulting in a net revenue
8 and credit to Energy Service customers of \$16.2 million.

9 **Q. Please summarize the ISO-NE capacity market rules that were in effect during**
10 **2017.**

11 A. The capacity market in New England is governed by the Forward Capacity Market
12 (“FCM”) rules as administered by ISO-NE. ISO-NE conducts Forward Capacity
13 Auctions (“FCA”), into which capacity resources offer MWs, to “procure” the
14 lowest cost resources necessary to meet the ISO-NE Installed Capacity
15 Requirement and to establish the market value of capacity. The capacity prices
16 established for 2017 were \$3.15/kW-month for the January to May period, and
17 \$7.025/kW-month for the June to December period. Additional components of the
18 FCM which occur after the FCAs, including Reconfiguration Auctions and monthly
19 Peak Energy Rent adjustments, result in adjustments to Capacity Supply
20 Obligations, the overall rate paid to capacity, and the rate paid by load for capacity.
21 Generally, resources are paid for providing capacity, and the total payments for
22 capacity resources in each month are charged to ISO-NE load serving entities based
23 on their relative share of the prior year’s peak demand.

24 **Q. Please summarize the supply resources that were used to meet Eversource’s**
25 **capacity requirements.**

26 A. During 2017, a total of 418,729 MW-months of capacity qualified for credits in the
27 ISO-NE capacity market (this equates to a monthly average of 34,894 MWs).
28 Eversource was allocated 2.94% (12,329 MW-months) of this capacity obligation.
29 Eversource’s supply resources had capacity supply obligations of 16,342 MW-
30 months of capacity; comprised of owned generation (13,707 MW-months), non-
31 utility IPPs (1,214 MW-months, including Burgess Biopower and Lempster Wind),

1 and Hydro-Quebec Interconnection Capacity Credits (1,421 MW-months). For
2 2017, Eversource had a net capacity surplus of 4,013 MW-months. (Figures may
3 not add due to rounding.) Attachment FBW-5 provides additional details.

4 **Q. Can you estimate the Energy Service (“ES”) customers’ capacity credit**
5 **associated with Eversource’s owned generation resources during 2017?**

6 A. Yes. As noted above, for 2017, owned resources provided 13,707 MW-months of
7 capacity to ISO-NE. This created \$71.2 million in revenue credited to the Energy
8 Service rate.

9 **V. FINANCIAL TRANSMISSION RIGHTS**

10 **Q. What is a Financial Transmission Right?**

11 A. An FTR is a financial instrument available to participants seeking to manage
12 congestion cost risk or those wishing to speculate on the difference in congestion
13 costs between two locations. These instruments have been available since the
14 introduction of the ISO-NE Standard Market Design. All FTRs are defined by a
15 MW amount, a source location, and a sink location (e.g. a participant may own 100
16 MW of FTRs that are sourced at the Merrimack node and sink at the New
17 Hampshire load zone). For each MW of FTR, the owner will receive a credit or a
18 charge from ISO-NE equal to the difference in the congestion component of the
19 hourly LMP between the sink and the source. If the sink location congestion price
20 exceeds the source location price, the FTR will have a positive value, i.e. - a credit
21 to that participant’s ISO-NE settlement in that hour. Similarly, if the sink location
22 price is less than the source location price, the owner will be charged the difference.

23 **Q. Please summarize Eversource’s participation in the ISO-NE FTR auction**
24 **process.**

25 A. Eversource participated in these auctions as a method of hedging the congestion
26 price differential between the major fossil stations (Merrimack and Schiller) and the
27 New Hampshire load zone for periods and in quantities according to forecasted unit
28 operation. Eversource also procured FTRs to hedge the differential between the
29 source location of bilateral purchases (e.g. the Massachusetts Hub and Burgess
30 Biopower) and the New Hampshire load zone. Generation resources and bilateral

1 purchases provide an effective hedge against the energy component of the zonal
2 LMP, but they do not guard against a congestion component differential.
3 Therefore, even in an hour in which Eversource had sufficient resources to serve its
4 energy requirement, it would be exposed to potential congestion charges. The
5 purpose of acquiring FTRs is to convert the risk associated with a variable,
6 unknown expense (i.e. the hour-by-hour difference in the applicable LMP
7 congestion component), to a fixed, known expense (i.e. the cost of the FTR);
8 however, not at any cost. The prices bid to acquire FTRs are evaluated against
9 potential congestion cost exposure to achieve a balance between risk coverage and
10 minimizing costs for ES customers. During 2017, Eversource acquired via auction
11 674 GWh of FTRs for a net cost of \$832,038. Settlement of the FTRs resulted in
12 elimination of \$1,502,651 of congestion charges. Thus, managing a portion of
13 congestion cost risk with FTRs resulted in an overall decrease in Energy Service
14 expense of \$670,613.

15 **Q. Will Eversource continue to participate in the FTR auction process in order to**
16 **hedge against unpredictable congestion costs?**

17 A. Eversource has utilized FTRs to manage congestion risk between its resource
18 locations and the New Hampshire load zone where energy service load is located.
19 To the extent resources are divested, and load obligations are met by wholesale
20 suppliers, the need for FTRs no longer exists. During 2017 congestion was
21 managed with FTRs as it has been for the past many years. In early 2018 the use of
22 FTRs was phased out as divestiture of Eversource's fossil steam units was
23 accomplished and wholesale supply for energy service was implemented.

24 **Q. Does that complete your testimony?**

25 A. Yes, it does.