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November 13, 2019

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301



Re: Docket No. DE 19-057
Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
Notice of Intent to File Permanent Rate Tariffs

Status of Audit's Review of Company Tax Returns

Dear Ms. Howland:

On August 27, 2019, Staff filed a Motion to Compel Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (PSNH) to respond to Staff's Data request 9-001, which asked PSNH to provide unredacted copies of its 2017 and 2018 tax federal corporate tax returns and state business tax returns for review. In every rate case, particularly in this case where the company in question requests an increase of \$70 million in distribution revenue, Audit Staff conducts a comprehensive audit that includes a review of the company's corporate income tax returns. Staff filed the data request and the subsequent Motion to Compel because PSNH consistently maintained to Audit Staff that its tax returns are confidential and that Audit Staff had all the material it needed to review the level of taxes pertaining to PSNH and determine whether the amount of taxes paid were appropriate.

On October 16, 2019, Staff filed a letter explaining that Audit Staff first requested a review of the tax returns in May 2019 when the material related to PSNH's permanent rate case was filed with the Commission. In that letter, Staff reported that the Company had only provided redacted state tax returns, and pro forma federal returns prepared by PSNH but not filed with any tax authority.

On October 23, 2019, Staff had a telephone conversation with PSNH wherein PSNH agreed to provide Audit Staff the opportunity to review the unredacted federal corporate and state business tax returns at PSNH's Manchester office, and to allow Audit Staff to receive photocopies of documents and pages of those returns necessary to complete its review. PSNH agreed that this could be accomplished within a few business days.

After normal business hours on November 4, 2019, PSNH left a message with Audit Staff that two hours on November 18, 2019 were available for review of the taxes. PSNH said that it was possible to schedule it earlier, but asked if the November 18 day would work. Staff replied to PSNH that PSNH should allow a full day because the review would take more than two hours, and requested that it be scheduled during the week of November 4, 2019.

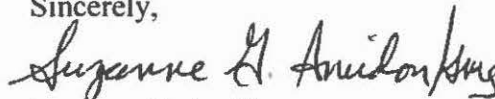
PSNH arranged for Audit Staff to visit its office on November 8, 2019 for the full day, and provided the full day for review of the relevant unredacted federal corporate and state business tax returns. Pursuant to the agreement, PSNH also provided copies of documents and pages of the tax returns requested by Audit Staff. When Staff left PSNH offices on Friday, PSNH had not provided all the requested material and promised to provide the remaining documents as soon as possible.

Staff reports that as of November 13, PSNH has met its commitment and has provided all the requested material to Audit Staff. While this is a full six months after Staff's initial request, Staff appreciates that PSNH finally provided the data needed for Audit Staff to complete its audit of the rate case.

Staff notes that, due to the delay in obtaining the relevant tax information, Staff will, in a separate filing, request that the procedural schedule be modified to allow Staff to update the proposed revenue requirements based on the final audit report.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne G. Amidon".

Suzanne G. Amidon
Staff Counsel

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