

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**before the**

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy

**DOCKET NO. DE 19-057**

**AMENDED Request for Waiver of Notice Requirement**

Pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 201.05, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“PSNH” or the “Company”) hereby submits this amendment to its requests for a waiver (“Request for Waiver”) of the notice requirement of N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 1203.02 submitted on April 26, 2019. In support of its Request for Waiver, PSNH states the following:

1. On April 26, 2019, PSNH filed with the Commission testimony, exhibits, schedules and other required information supporting a temporary increase in distribution rates pending a full rate review. On or about May 28, 2019, PSNH will be filing testimony, exhibits, schedules and other required information supporting a permanent adjustment to distribution rates. Pursuant to Puc 1203.03(c) and (d):

(c) Except for telephone utilities which shall comply with the provisions of Puc 403.09, all utilities that file an application with the commission for a general rate change shall send to each of its customers a clear and concise statement of the rate schedules applied for and indicate which schedules are applicable to that customer.

(d) The information required to be distributed to customers under (c) above shall be distributed no later than 30 calendar days from the date of filing.

The submissions by PSNH on April 26, 2019 and on or about May 28, 2019 each qualify as an “application” for a general rate change as described in the rule.

2. In that both of PSNH's filings may be viewed as an application for a general rate change, literal compliance with the rule would, arguably, require issuing multiple notices to customers. However, both filings may be viewed as two parts to an overall rate proposal. Accordingly, on April 26, 2019, PSNH also filed a request for the Commission to waive any requirement to issue two notices, because sending one notice to customers for the temporary rate request and again for the permanent rate request would be unnecessarily duplicative, as well as potentially confusing to customers and the general public. The Commission has yet to rule upon that waiver request.

3. Following the Company's April 26 submission, PSNH consulted with the Commission Staff and the Office of Consumer Advocate ("OCA") relative to this issue. Staff and OCA expressed concerns whether a single notice would provide customers the information they might need, and whether the notice would reach customers within an appropriate time in advance of the hearing on temporary rates presently scheduled for June 18, 2019. In light of this consultation, PSNH hereby amends its Request for Waiver as set forth herein.

4. By this amended request, PSNH proposes to issue a single notice to customers relating to the general rate change. However, the notice would provide information on both the temporary rate change and the permanent rate change proposed by PSNH. The form of the notice would be as shown in the attachment to this filing, with the highlighted sections filled in once that information is available. The notice would be sent to customers on May 28, 2019, which is the same day as the permanent rate filing, by electronic and postal mail. Customers already receiving electronic communications from the Company will receive the notice electronically that same day. Customers receiving postal mail communications from the Company would have the notice mailed to them and should receive it by the end of May. If, for any reason, the notice cannot be issued on May 28, 2019, PSNH would issue the notice the following day. PSNH understands, and is

authorized to represent, that the Commission Staff agrees with this proposal, and with the content of the attached notice.

5. Pursuant to Puc 201.05, the Commission may waive one or more of its rules if the waiver serves the public interest, and the waiver shall not disrupt the orderly proceeding of the Commission. The public interest is served if compliance with the rule would be onerous given the circumstances, and the purpose of the rule shall be satisfied by an alternative method. Puc 201.05 (b). The public interest is served by this Request for Waiver, because under this amended request customers will receive the required notice relating to PSNH's general rate change application, including information on both the temporary rate change and permanent rate change, and the single notice will help minimize the potential for customer confusion. Moreover, by receiving information on both proposed rate changes well in advance of the hearing on June 18, 2019, customers desiring to participate will have ample time to do so and thus the orderly conduct of the proceeding will be maintained. Accordingly, PSNH requests that the amended Request for Waiver be granted.

**WHEREFORE**, PSNH respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Issue an order granting the above-identified amended waiver, and
- B. Order such further relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy  
By Its Attorneys

By: 

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Dated: May 7, 2019

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that, on the date written below, I caused the attached Motion to be served pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.11.

May 7, 2019  
Date

  
Matthew J. Fossum