

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
before the
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

DOCKET NO. DE 19-XXX

CLEAN INNOVATION COMMUNITY SOLAR PILOT PROPOSAL

Petition for Approval of Pilot Proposal

Pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.06 and Order No. 26,029 (June 23, 2017), Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”) hereby petitions for the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to approve Eversource’s proposal for its “Clean Innovation Community Solar” pilot program for the benefit of low and moderate income (“LMI”) customers. In support of this Petition, Eversource states the following:

1. In House Bill 1116, 2016 N.H. Laws Chapter 31, the legislature amended certain provisions of RSA Chapters 362 and 362-A and directed the Commission to develop new alternative net metering tariffs within a specified time. Consistent with that directive, on May 19, 2016, the Commission issued an order of notice opening Docket No. DE 16-576. On June 23, 2017, the Commission issued Order No. 26,029 which, among other things, accepted certain settlement positions and resolved others, and which adopted a new net metering tariff.

2. In addition to adopting a new net metering tariff, the Commission’s order concluded that certain pilot programs should be implemented by the state’s regulated utilities. Most relevant to this petition, one of the pilot programs identified by the Commission as worthy of pursuit was “a pilot program that would use monetary bill credits to make the benefits of solar DG system ownership available to low and moderate income customers whose circumstances

would otherwise not allow them to participate in a net-metered renewable energy project.”

Order No. 26,029 at 63. In describing the parameters for such a pilot, the Commission stated:

Each utility should develop for our consideration such a pilot program, to include a statistically significant number of program participants, if possible, in order to ensure data validity. We note that Senate Bill 129, if enacted, would require the funding and implementation of certain programs and projects intended to benefit low and moderate income residential electric customers. We direct the utilities and Staff to develop pilot programs that are consistent with, and not duplicative of, any such other programs and projects required under enacted legislation.

Id. This petition, and its supporting testimony and exhibits, comprise Eversource’s proposal for such a pilot for the Commission’s consideration.

3. As described in the included joint testimony of Andrew C. Belden, Brian J. Rice and Katherine W. Peters, Eversource’s proposed “Clean Innovation Community Solar” pilot program is largely based upon the existing model for group net metering, but is intended to explore a different shared solar model that has the potential to make financial savings from solar programs more accessible to LMI customers by removing or reducing existing financial and administrative barriers to LMI participation in shared solar. This pilot program proposal is based upon Eversource’s extensive experience with similar programs and was built with significant input from numerous stakeholders, including many serving LMI customers.

4. The Company’s pilot would use a competitive Request for Proposals (“RFP”) process to solicit solar developers willing to build solar generation projects benefitting LMI customers. The benefits to LMI customers would come in the form of bill credits to customers within a specified zip code, or zip codes, who are receiving benefits through the Electric Assistance Program (“EAP”). By having Eversource identify and manage the customers within that group, the Company would be relieving the developer of the burden of recruiting eligible LMI customers to participate. The Company would also assume the burden of actually calculating

and providing credits on the electric bills of those customers for the excess generation produced by the specified solar project. The amount of the credit to those customers would be calculated based upon a deduction from the then-prevailing rate applied to surplus generation that would, in a different context, be paid to the project owner or group host. The specifics for the calculations and the crediting to customers and developers are set out in the included testimony.

5. Through this pilot, the Company is proposing to select projects totaling up to 20 MW of generation. Moreover, the model for scoring respondents to the RFP includes enhancements for projects showing certain levels of community engagement, thus helping to assure that developers will be engaging with the communities they intend to benefit. Additionally, the Company has included a robust plan for evaluation, measurement and verification (“EM&V”) to assure that Eversource will be able to capture the information necessary to assess the benefits of the program during the pilot period. Lastly, the Company offers clear information on the costs of implementing and running the pilot program assuring the Commission will be able to understand the net benefits that would flow to customers through the pilot.

WHEREFORE, based upon the above and the included testimony and information,

Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Approve Eversource's "Clean Innovation Community Solar" pilot program and authorize implementation of the program as described; 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 Attorney

Dated: May 30, 2019

By: _____

Matthew J. Fossum

Senior Counsel

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

780 N. Commercial St.

Manchester, NH 03101

603-634-2961

Matthew.Fossum@eversource.com