

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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January 24, 2019

Matthew J. Fossum, Esq.
Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
780 N. Commercial Street
P.O. Box 330
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105-0330

Re: DE 17-171, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy; Proposed Tariff Amendment regarding Late Payment Charge

Dear Mr. Fossum:

On December 13, 2018, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a request for approval of amendments to the terms of its tariff regarding the assessment of late charges in accordance with RSA 378:3 and N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 1605.02. These amendments are reflected in the revisions to page 23 of Eversource's tariff, NHPUC No. 9, which were included in Eversource's December 13, 2018 filing.

As a result of delays Eversource customers were experiencing when mailing their payments, which were processed at Eversource's processing site in Dallas, Texas, Eversource requested an amendment to the terms of its tariff relating to the assessment of late payment charges on November 1, 2017. In Order No. 26,081 issued on December 1, 2017, the Commission approved Eversource's amended tariff, effective December 1, 2017. That amendment extended the time after which Eversource assessed a late payment charge on payments mailed by customers by an additional five (5) days, from 25 to 30 days after the due date printed on the bill. The Commission subsequently issued Order No. 26,110 on March 7, 2018. That order directed Eversource to immediately stop assessing late payment charges on customers who paid their bills by mail. Eversource was required to inform the Commission's Consumer Services and External Affairs Division at least once a month about its progress in selecting a new payment processing vendor and making a transition to the new vendor. The Commission stated that it would revisit the issue of late payment charges once Eversource demonstrated that there were no mail delays associated with the new payment processing vendor it had selected.

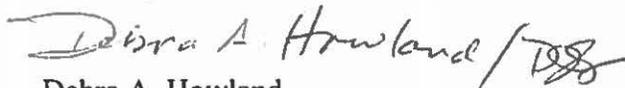
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After making the transition to a payment processing vendor located in Boston, Massachusetts, Eversource made its December 13, 2018, filing requesting an amendment to its tariff to reinstitute late payment charges. Commission Staff (Staff) reviewed the amendments and issued a memorandum on January 10, 2019. Staff noted that the amendments would require Eversource to change the way it presently processes mailed customer payments. First, Eversource would stop the manual waiver of late payment charges effective February 1, 2019. Second, effective May 1, 2019, Eversource would resume the use of a 25-day period before late charges are imposed, consistent with N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 1202.09. Staff stated that the issue of untimely processing of payments has been resolved and recommended that the Commission approve Eversource's proposed tariff.

Based on the foregoing, the Commission approved Eversource's proposed tariff changes. For administrative efficiency, an order will not be issued by the Commission approving the proposed tariff. The proposed tariff shall become effective on February 1, 2019 as requested in Eversource's December 13, 2018 filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra A. Howland" followed by a stylized flourish.

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Docket File
Service List