

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DE 21-078**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

**Petition for Electric Vehicle Make-Ready and Demand Charge Alternative Proposals**

**ORDER OF NOTICE**

In Docket No. DE 19-057, the Commission approved a settlement agreement which, among other things, required Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to file a proposal for make-ready investments supporting electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in New Hampshire, including a proposal for an alternative to demand charges for EV charging rates, to be considered by the Commission in a new docket. Order No. 26,433 at 16-17, 22 (December 15, 2020). On April 15, 2021, Eversource filed a petition for approval of its proposed “Make-Ready EV Charging Infrastructure Program” (Make-Ready Program) and “Demand Charge Alternative” (DCA), which was supported by the joint testimony of Edward A. Davis, Brian J. Rice, and Kevin M. Boughan, and related attachments. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission’s website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2021/21-078.html>.

Eversource proposed investing approximately \$2 million in its Make-Ready Program, which would expand the network of EV charging stations by adding five Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) locations in Eversource’s service territory. Under its proposal, Eversource would install front of the meter infrastructure and provide one-time rebates for funding the installation of behind the meter electrical equipment, which would be owned by the customer.

Eversource estimated that it would invest approximately \$650,000 for front of the meter equipment and stated that it would seek to include the net value of that capital investment in rate base during its next base distribution rate proceeding. Eversource proposed recovering its non-capital expenses in another manner, such as a reconciling mechanism.

According to Eversource, its Make-Ready Program would support the development of a successful DCFC corridor in New Hampshire, as well as New Hampshire's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan.<sup>1</sup> It projected that the potential long-term revenue from public EV charging would eventually exceed the cost of the program and reduce the base distribution rates charged to other Eversource customers, in addition to other potential benefits. Eversource requested the Commission to find that its Make-Ready Program and associated capital investments in EV charging infrastructure are reasonable.

Eversource also requested the Commission to find that its proposed DCA is reasonable. After reviewing a number of rate designs and methodologies, Eversource proposed the DCA for public EV charging stations participating in its Make-Ready Program as an alternative to its otherwise applicable Rate GV, which includes a demand charge. Instead of a demand charge, the DCA would apply a fixed volumetric rate for a targeted range of utilization. If energy utilization, which is expected to be low during the first few years of EV charging station deployment, is less than 10 percent, Eversource calculated that using the DCA would result in lower charges than Rate GV. Conversely, Eversource's calculations show that if energy utilization is greater than 10 percent, lower charges would occur using Rate GV. Eversource stated that DCFC customers could choose the most favorable rate option and switch options, if the other rate proved to be

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<sup>1</sup> New Hampshire's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan was developed to determine how New Hampshire would use the approximately \$31 million it received as its share of the 2017 settlement of litigation against several Volkswagen companies alleging violations of the Federal Clean Air Act. *See* <https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/documents/beneficiary-mitigation-plan.pdf>.

more beneficial. It submitted that the DCA would be easy to understand, simple to apply, and would address concerns about demand charges, which EV charging hosts have seen as a barrier to deploying EV supply equipment.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether Eversource's proposed Make-Ready Program and DCA are consistent with the settlement agreement approved by the Commission in Order No. 26,433 (December 15, 2020); whether Eversource's proposed Make-Ready Program and associated, estimated capital investments in EV charging infrastructure are reasonable and consistent with the New Hampshire Energy Policy stated in RSA 378:37, as well as existing state EV policies; whether Eversource's DCA is consistent with the New Hampshire Energy Policy stated in RSA 378:37, as well as existing state EV policies; and whether Eversource's DCA, if approved, would result in rates that are just and reasonable, as required by RSA 374:2, and by RSA 378:5 and :7. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

With the expiration of the declared State of Emergency, the Commission must now comply with all requirements of RSA chapter 91-A, including the requirement that a quorum of a public body must be physically present at the location specified as the location of the public meeting in the meeting notice. The Commission is aware that not all parties, including regulated utilities, have returned to full in-person work environments. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, the Commission intends to provide a hybrid approach to hearings to accommodate those who are remote and those who are physically present. A quorum of Commissioners will be physically present within a hearing room for all Commission hearings beginning June 14, 2021. In order to facilitate the hybrid approach, the Commissioners will also continue to participate on the web-

enabled platform. Parties and the public may continue to participate in hearings remotely using the Commission's web-enabled platform.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that the Commission will hold a prehearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15, at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on August 25, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15. Commissioners will be present in the hearing room and will also use a web-enabled platform to conduct the hearing. Members of the public who wish to access the prehearing conference may do so by [clicking here](#). **If you have any difficulty obtaining access to this remote event, please notify the Commission by calling (603) 271-2431 as soon as possible.** Parties and members of the public wishing to attend the hearing in person are encouraged to register in advance, on or before August 20, 2021, by calling (603) 271-2431; and it is

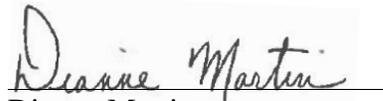
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, immediately following the prehearing conference, the parties, including Eversource, the Department of Energy, and any intervenors hold a web-enabled remote technical session to review the petition; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than one business day after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before August 20, 2021. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than one business day after the date of issue; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to Eversource, the Department of Energy, and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before August 20, 2021, such petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17. Pursuant to the secretarial letter issued on March 17, 2020, which is posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Secretarial%20Letters/20200317-SecLtr-Temp-Changes-in-Filing-Requirements.pdf>, any party seeking to intervene may elect to submit this filing in electronic form; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before August 25, 2021.

So ordered, this tenth day of August, 2021.

  
Dianne Martin  
Presiding Officer  
Chairwoman

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

## Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-078

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