

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DE 24-101**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY  
AND NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**Joint Petition to Alter Franchise Areas in Landaff, New Hampshire**

**COMMENCEMENT OF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING  
AND NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

On September 12, 2024, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) and New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) (together, the Joint Petitioners) filed a petition requesting that the Commission modify their franchise areas in Landaff, New Hampshire to transfer a lot in Eversource's franchise area to NHEC's franchise area. In support of their petition, the Joint Petitioners filed Attachment A, showing the Joint Petitioners' existing and proposed franchise area boundaries, and Attachment B, showing the Joint Petitioners' existing electric distribution facilities in the area in question. All docket filings, other than any information subject to confidential treatment, are available on the Commission's website at [www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2024/24-101.html](http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2024/24-101.html).

**I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

The Joint Petitioners request modification of their franchise boundaries to provide service to a new customer at Lot 3-17 on Albee Road in Landaff. See Petition (Pet.), at 1. As shown in Attachment A, Lot 3-17 is presently located within Eversource's franchise area. NHEC's electric distribution facilities, however, are closer to Lot 3-17 than Eversource's electric distribution facilities. Pet., ¶ 1. Attachment B indicates that NHEC's electric distribution facilities are only about 120 feet from Lot 3-17, whereas Eversource's facilities are approximately 800 feet away.

Because NHEC's electric distribution facilities are closer to Lot 3-17, it would cost less for NHEC to extend service to this lot than for Eversource to do so. Pet. ¶¶ 1-2. The Joint Petitioners stated that they agree to modify their franchise boundary lines to allow NHEC to provide electric service to Lot 3-17. *Id.*, ¶ 2.

In their petition, the Joint Petitioners indicated that the owner of Lot 3-17 assented to their request to modify their franchise areas, *id.*, ¶ 3, although no verification was provided. They maintained that this is an uncontested matter and requested that the Commission issue an order *nisi* granting their petition without a hearing pursuant to RSA 374:26. Pet. ¶ 3.

## **II. ISSUES PRESENTED**

The filing presents, *inter alia*, the following issue: whether modification of Eversource's and NHEC's franchise areas to transfer Lot 3-17 to NHEC's franchise area would be for the public good and thus permissible under RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26. Accordingly, an adjudicative proceeding will be convened to address this issue.

The Commission will be conducting the prehearing conference and any hearings scheduled in this matter in person. The Commission will consider requests to conduct hearings using a hybrid format to permit remote participation by a specific individual only if the Commission has determined that a sufficient reason has been provided for why that individual would be unable to attend in person. Any party requesting that a specific individual be permitted to participate remotely should file a written request with the Commission's Clerk's Office no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the prehearing conference or hearing date. If the Commission determines that one or more individuals will be permitted to appear remotely, then individuals in the Commission's

hearing room, including the Commissioners, will be broadcast on a web-enabled platform.

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

**ORDERED**, that an adjudicative proceeding be commenced for the purpose of reviewing and resolving the foregoing issues pursuant to RSA chapter 541-A, RSA 374:22, RSA 374:26, and the Commission's procedural rules; and it is

**FURTHER 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 November 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at which each party should be prepared to address any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the New Hampshire Department of Energy is requested to file its position regarding the Joint Petitioners' petition, including the reasons for this position, with a recommendation regarding whether the Commission should resolve this matter by issuing an order *nisi*, on or before November 12, 2024; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that during the prehearing conference, the Commission will consider the matters listed in Puc 203.15(c) and (d), including the establishment of a procedural schedule governing the remainder of the proceeding. Parties and potential parties are encouraged to facilitate the development of a procedural schedule by conferring prior to the prehearing conference, so that the presiding officer can address any matters on which there is disagreement during the prehearing conference; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, immediately following the prehearing conference, the Joint Petitioners shall make appropriate personnel available for the parties to hold a technical session to review the filing; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any entity or individual may petition to intervene and seek to be admitted as a party in this proceeding. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any entity or individual seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to the Joint Petitioners and any other parties on the service list, on or before November 8, 2024. The petition shall state the facts demonstrating how the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before November 18, 2024; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the parties may submit a stipulation containing a discovery schedule, statement of any additional issues not identified in this order of notice, and at least three dates on which they would be available for a final hearing in this matter, including how much time will be required, with a request that the prehearing conference and technical session be cancelled, on or before November 19, 2024. The Commission may cancel the prehearing conference and technical session upon approval of such a stipulation; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that parties shall file any proposed exhibits, written testimony, motions, or other documents intended to become part of the record in this proceeding with the Commission. 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>, all Commission rules requiring the filing of paper copies are suspended until further notice. Parties may elect to submit any filing in electronic form unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Filings will be considered filed as of the time the electronic copy is received by the Commission; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Joint Petitioners shall file any additional supporting documentation they wish to be considered, including verification that the owner of Lot 3-17 assents to the requested franchise boundary change, details of the requested service extension, and details supporting NHEC's proposed extension, on or before November 5, 2024; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that routine procedural inquiries may be made by contacting the Commission's Clerk's Office at (603) 271-2431 or [ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov](mailto:ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov). All requests to the Commission should be made in a written pleading filed with the Commission. Unless otherwise authorized by law, *ex parte* communications are prohibited; and it is

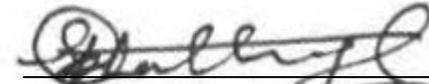
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, The Joint Petitioners shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on their websites no later than two business days after the date of issue. Eversource shall provide supplemental notice by sending a copy of this order of notice by first-class and certified United States mail to the owner of Lot 3-17, postmarked no later than October 28, 2024. Such publication and mailing shall be documented by affidavits filed with the Commission on or before November 12, 2024. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than two business days after the date of issue; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any hearings in this matter shall be conducted in accordance with the attached hearing guidelines.

So ordered, this fifteenth day of October, 2024.



Daniel C. Goldner  
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay  
Commissioner

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the 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#: 24-101

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