

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DE 25-071**

**ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES**

**2026 Adjustments to the Energy Efficiency Portion of System Benefits Charges  
and Local Distribution Adjustment Charges**

**Order *Nisi* Approving Requests to Modify Energy Efficiency Portion of System Benefit  
Charges and Local Distribution Adjustment Charges**

**ORDER NO. 28,197**

**December 15, 2025**

In this order, the Commission approves on a *nisi* basis the tariff change filings reflecting a 3.575 percent inflation adjustment, as required by statute, to the energy efficiency charge (EEC) charged to New Hampshire ratepayers and collected by the electric and natural gas utilities, as a component of either the electric-utility System Benefits Charge (SBC) or the gas-utility Local Distribution Adjustment Charges (LDAC). This approval is subject to a condition that the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) verify the rate calculations relating to the inflation adjustment.

**I. SUMMARY OF FILINGS**

Pursuant to RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2), from November 18, 2025 through December 3, 2025, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource (Eversource); Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (Unitil Electric); Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty Electric); the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC)<sup>1</sup>; Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty Gas); and Northern Utilities, Inc. (Unitil

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<sup>1</sup> The NHEC is not a rate regulated utility, nevertheless it is subject to the Commission's limited jurisdiction with regard to provisions of RSA Chapter 374-F relating to energy efficiency. *See* RSA 374-F:4, XII.

Gas) (together, the Joint Utilities), filed proposed tariff changes related to the EEC, for effect on January 1, 2026.

These are the proposed and current EEC rates, in cents per kWh for electric utilities, and cents per therm for gas utilities, for residential customers, reflected in the Joint Utilities' petitions, presented in the table below. (Separate Commercial and Industrial ('C&I') EEC rates are assessed to C&I customers of the gas utilities, which will be discussed below the table).

<b>UTILITY</b>	<b>Proposed EEC Rate</b>	<b>Current EEC Rate</b>
Eversource	0.485 cents/kWh <sup>2</sup>	0.606 cents/kWh
Liberty Electric	0.628 cents/kWh	0.606 cents/kWh
NHEC	0.628 cents/kWh	0.606 cents/kWh
Unitil Electric	0.628 cents/kWh	0.606 cents/kWh
Liberty Gas	7.61 cents/therm	7.35 cents/therm
Unitil Gas	5.92 cents/therm	5.72 cents/therm

For C&I customers of Liberty Gas, the EEC is being increased from 4.89 cents per therm to 5.06 cents per therm. For C&I customers of Unitil Gas, the EEC charge is being increased from 2.83 cents per therm to 2.93 cents per therm.

Eversource also submitted, for Commission approval, the statutory Electric Assistance Program (EAP) rate of 0.150 cents per kWh, which consistent with current statutory authority, remains unchanged from prior filings. Docket Tab #1 at Bates Page 7. Each Joint Utility's respective tariff change request is posted to the Commission's website at

<https://www.puc.nh.gov/VirtualFileRoom/Docket.aspx?DocketNumber=DE%2025-071>.

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<sup>2</sup> Eversource indicates that its decrease in the EEC rate for 2026, which is not reflected by the other Joint Utilities' EEC rate proposals, is due to the application of the Eversource Prior Planning Period Credit Adjustment, related to Eversource's 2023 carryover amount of approximately \$11.1 million. *See* Docket Tab #1, at Bates Pages 5-7.

## II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2), as amended, directed the EEC portion of SBC (electric) and LDAC (gas) rates to adjust annually beginning on January 1, 2023 using the CPI-W, which for the current period amounts to a blended 3-year inflation rate of 3.575 percent. (The annual adjustment factor to the EEC must be calculated by the DOE based on the most recently available 3-year average of the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor). RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2).

N.H. Code Admin. R. PART 1605 applies to tariff changes outside of full rate cases. The Commission construes the Joint Utilities' filings as Puc PART 1605 filings and does not invoke Puc PART 1604. The Commission's role in approving these tariff changes is therefore limited to ensuring that the proposed tariff changes are consistent with RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2) and Puc 1605.03's publication requirements, which incorporates by reference Puc 1604.03.

We hereby condition this order *nisi* on the DOE filing a technical statement verifying that it calculated the inflation adjustment factor of 3.575 percent, and that the inflation adjustment factor it calculated was accurately applied by the Joint Utilities in their electric and gas tariff filings, respectively. We also invite the DOE to verify, at the earliest opportunity, Eversource's accounting relating to the Prior Period Credit Adjustment, referenced in footnote 2, above.

In relation to the Eversource request for Commission "approval" of the statutorily-fixed EAP rate component of 0.150 cents per kWh, which is unchanged, and the program for which the Commission has no substantive oversight (as determined by a newly-enacted statute), the Commission is happy to extend this regulatory amenity to Eversource, however small.

With regard to the publication requirements of N.H. Code Admin. R. Puc 1604.03, these specify, under part (d), "The utility shall publish the order of notice no less than 14 days prior to

the hearing or-prehearing conference before the commission, *or in the event no hearing is ordered, prior to the effective date,*” (emphasis added), and under part (e), “The utility shall publish the notice required by this section as directed by the commission.” In this instance, no hearing is ordered, and we hereby order that the publication requirements of Puc 1605.03\1604.03 shall be satisfied by the Joint Utilities’ publication of this Order *Nisi* on their respective websites by December 18, 2025.

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

**ORDERED *NISI***, that subject to the effective date below, the Joint Utilities’ tariff filings, increasing the Energy Efficiency Charge collected as a component of the System Benefits Charges and Local Distribution Adjustment Charges pursuant to RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2), for effect January 1, 2026, are hereby APPROVED; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Eversource request for inclusion of the statutorily-fixed 0.150 per kWh EAP rate feature in its Tariff is APPROVED; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Joint Utilities post their respective new tariff provisions and a copy of this order *nisi* on their respective websites no later than December 18, 2025, such posting to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before December 23, 2025; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that a copy of this order *nisi* be posted on the Commission’s website within two business days; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, it is requested that the New Hampshire Department of Energy verify, by filing a technical statement with the Commission on or before December 23, 2025, that it calculated an inflation adjustment pursuant to RSA 374-F:3, VI-a(d)(2) and its calculated adjustment was accurately applied by the Joint Utilities; and it is


**FURTHER ORDERED**, that all persons interested in responding to this order be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing, stating the reason and basis for a hearing, no later than December 26, 2025 for the Commission's consideration; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than December 30, 2025; and it is


**FURTHER ORDERED**, that this order shall be effective January 1, 2026, unless any publication or filing obligation set forth above is not complied with or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Joint Utilities file compliance tariff pages with the Commission on or before January 16, 2026, in accordance with N.H Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603; the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. is not required to file such compliance tariff pages.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fifteenth day of December 2025.



Mark W. Dell'Orfano  
Interim Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay  
Commissioner

## Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 25-071

Printed: 12/15/2025

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