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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



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June 11, 2020

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council

State House  
Concord, NH 03301

His Excellency and Honorable Councilors:

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorization is requested by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a waiver of the provisions of Manual of Procedures 1200 Memberships, Dues and Licenses Paragraph I, F., to authorize the Commission to pay the New Hampshire Bar Association and Supreme Court dues and fees, in the total amount of \$565.00 currently due, for Suzanne Amidon, Esq., who is currently employed by the Commission on a part-time basis as a Hearings Examiner. Funds for this request are 100% Utility Assessment and available in the following account: 10-81-81-28120000-500251 -026.

**EXPLANATION**

Attorney Suzanne Amidon retired from full-time employment as a Commission Hearings Examiner in June 2019 and ceased working as an attorney. Shortly thereafter, the Commission requested that Attorney Amidon resume work for the Commission on a part-time basis for the purpose of serving as lead counsel in Docket No. DE 19-057, the pending rate case filed by Public Service Company of New Hampshire, d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource). I understand that both she and the Commission expected the hearings in the Eversource rate case would conclude in March 2020, and the proceeding would fully conclude in June. The procedural schedule for the Eversource rate case, however, has had to be extended for several months, primarily due to the coronavirus pandemic. Since Attorney Amidon has been lead counsel on the docket throughout the proceedings, replacing her this late in the proceedings would create significant hardship. As a result, the Commission has requested that she continue to work until the proceeding is completed.

In view of the unforeseen delay in the completion of the Eversource rate case and the resulting additional dues and fees Attorney Amidon would not otherwise have to pay, Attorney Amidon has requested that the Commission pay the related bar dues and court fees. Because she will remain an active member of the New Hampshire bar solely to complete the Eversource rate case at the Commission's request, the Commission agreed to seek a waiver of MOP 1200 Paragraph I.F to permit payment or reimbursement of such a "cost of [a] license required to engage in a specific occupation prior to or during employment."

No General Funds will be required for this request. The funds for Attorney Amidon's bar dues and court fees will be from utility assessments pursuant to RSA 363-A.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Dianne Martin in cursive.

Dianne Martin, Esq.  
Chairwoman