

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 07-108

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 28, 2007, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed with the Commission its 2007 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan (2007 LCIRP). PSNH submitted this plan pursuant to RSA 378:38, which requires that each electric utility file an integrated least cost resource plan at least biennially, and Order No. 24,695 (November 8, 2006) in Docket No. 04-072, *Public Service Company of New Hampshire, 2004 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan*.

Among other things, Order No. 24,695 required PSNH to file a LCIRP that includes the following components: 1) electric energy and demand forecasts for delivery and energy services under high-, low- and base-case scenarios; 2) the resource balance over the planning period, including an assessment of PSNH's base-load, intermediate and peaking needs; 3) a systematic evaluation of reasonably available demand-side resources plus a description of the avoided cost methodology and associated avoided cost forecast used for evaluation purposes; 4) generic cost information relating to the construction or acquisition of new generation capacity; 5) a description of the process, including the results of any evaluations used by PSNH, to select the mix of demand-side and supply-side resources included in the resource plan; and 6) the resource plan with which PSNH proposes to fill the resource balance at the lowest cost.

RSA 378:38 also provides that each LCIRP shall include, but not be limited to: a forecast of future electrical demand for the utility's service area; an assessment of demand-side energy management programs, including conservation, efficiency improvement and load management programs; an assessment of supply options; an assessment of transmission requirements;

provision for diversity of supply sources; integration of demand-side and supply-side options; an assessment of plan integration and impact on state compliance with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990; an assessment of plan integration and impact on state compliance with the National Energy Policy Act of 1992; and an assessment of the plan's long- and short-term environmental, economic and energy price and supply impact on the state.

The 2007 LCIRP states that, during the 2008 through 2012 period, PSNH expects customers' energy consumption to grow at a rate of about 2.3 percent per year and PSNH's system peak demand to grow at a rate of about 2.5 percent per year. PSNH states that it will have to obtain power for these requirements through market purchases, and will also have to make additional payments for capacity for those market purchases. In its 2007 LCIRP, PSNH also analyzed adding a portfolio of PSNH-owned cost-of-service rate-based assets and increasing energy efficiency and demand-side programs to meet expected increases in demand.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether PSNH's planning process is adequate as defined by the requirements set forth in RSA 378:38 and 39 and Order 24,695 and whether it is consistent with RSA Chapter 374-F and RSA 369-B:3a. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on January 31, 2008 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. Rule Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, PSNH, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow PSNH to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, PSNH shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than January 10, 2008, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before January 31, 2008; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to PSNH and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before January 29, 2008, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before January 31, 2008.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fourth day of January, 2008.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary

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.