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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NHPUC NOV02'09 AM 9:01

October 19, 2009 - 10:09 a.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

RE: DE 09-179
PUBLIC SERVICE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:
Petition for Adjustment of Stranded
Cost Recovery Charge.
(Prehearing conference)

PRESENT: Commissioner Amy L. Ignatius, Presiding

Sandy Deno, Clerk

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Public Service of New Hampshire:
Gerald M. Eaton, Esq.

Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:
Meredith Hatfield, Esq., Consumer Advocate
Kenneth E. Traum, Asst. Consumer Advocate
Office of Consumer Advocate

Reptg. PUC Staff:
Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.
Steven E. Mullen, Asst. Dir. - Electric Div.

Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

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P R O C E E D I N G

1
2 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Good morning. This is
3 a prehearing conference in docket DE 09-179, Public
4 Service Company of New Hampshire. And, I'll note that
5 Chairman Getz and Commissioner Below are in a meeting in
6 Boston today and unable to attend, but I will conduct the
7 prehearing conference. This is a case that was filed by
8 Public Service Company of New Hampshire on September 24th
9 2009. It's a petition for adjustment to its Stranded Cost
10 Recovery Charge for effect with service rendered on or
11 after January 1, 2010. And, in support of the petition,
12 PSNH filed the Testimony of Robert Baumann, with related
13 exhibits and attachments.

14 According to PSNH, based on the data
15 available at the time of filing, PSNH has provided a
16 preliminary calculation of an average SCRC rate of \$0.0102
17 per kilowatt-hour for service rendered on or after July --
18 January 1, 2010. PSNH stated it's not requesting approval
19 of the specific rate at this time, and it will update its
20 estimates with more recent data prior to the hearing on
21 the merits on the petition, and that the decrease in the
22 estimated 2010 SCRC charge is primarily due to lower
23 above-market IPP costs resulting from higher forecasted
24 market IPP costs.

1 So, with that, let me take appearances.

2 MR. EATON: For Public Service Company
3 of New Hampshire, my name is Gerald Eaton. Good morning.

4 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Good morning.

5 MS. HATFIELD: Good morning,
6 Commissioner Ignatius. Meredith Hatfield, for the Office
7 of Consumer Advocate, on behalf of residential ratepayers.
8 And, with me is Ken Traum from the office.

9 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Good morning.

10 MS. AMIDON: Good morning. Suzanne
11 Amidon, for Commission Staff. And, with me is Steve
12 Mullen, who is the Assistant Director of the Electric
13 Division.

14 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Thank you. I note a
15 publication was made, is it October 16th, 2009?

16 MR. EATON: I believe that's when the
17 affidavit was filed. But the date it was published I
18 believe was October 8th.

19 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Thank you. I don't
20 have that in the file, but perhaps it's in the main file
21 of the Commission, which is fine. We'll just double check
22 and make certain that we have received it.

23 And, on interventions -- on
24 interventions, we have notice from the Office of Consumer

1 Advocate of its intent to participate. Are there any
2 other requests for intervention?

3 (No verbal response)

4 CMSR. IGNATIUS: All right. Then, I
5 think we move then to initial positions of the parties.
6 Mr. Eaton.

7 MR. EATON: Thank you, Commissioner
8 Ignatius. We filed for a revised rate to be in effect on
9 January 1st, 2010. Preliminary estimates see a decrease
10 of approximately 12 mills from the current rate. As you
11 correctly stated, the main reason for that is lower
12 above-market costs for IPPs, which are part of Part 2
13 stranded costs, and that's caused by what we predict in
14 higher market costs. And, I believe also there are some
15 prior period under recoveries that are smaller this time
16 than were when we set the rate or revised the rate in mid
17 2009.

18 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Thank you. Ms.
19 Hatfield.

20 MS. HATFIELD: Thank you. The OCA is
21 still reviewing PSNH's filing, and we do not have a
22 position at this time. But we will work with the parties
23 and Staff to develop a position before the hearing.

24 CMSR. IGNATIUS: All right. Ms. Amidon.

1 MS. AMIDON: Thank you. Staff has just
2 begun its review of the filing. And, we will be making
3 recommendations to the Commission for a procedural
4 schedule on this docket following the prehearing
5 conferences today.

6 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Thank you. Mr. Eaton,
7 your filing said that you would "update the file with more
8 definitive numbers prior to the hearing", but presumably
9 you'll have pretty firm numbers for people to work through
10 in the discovery phase?

11 MR. EATON: Yes. Yes, we will.

12 CMSR. IGNATIUS: All right. Well, I
13 think anything you can do to make it as close to what you
14 think is possible during the discovery period, even if
15 those have to be further adjusted as you get up close to
16 hearing, it will be helpful to the participants.

17 MR. EATON: We will do that. We will
18 proceed directly with discovery and answer with the best
19 available information we have.

20 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Thank you. You're
21 going, I know, into a tech session after this. We have
22 another prehearing conference involving some of the same
23 parties at 10:30. Is it your preference to go straight to
24 the next tech session -- excuse me, to the next prehearing

1 conference, although I see one of the intervenor parties
2 is not here, so I guess we won't do that. Are there any
3 other matters then for this prehearing conference?

4 MR. EATON: No.

5 MS. AMIDON: No.

6 CMSR. IGNATIUS: All right. Thank you.
7 Then, why don't we wait until either Mr. Rodier, who's
8 participating in the next prehearing conference, if he
9 arrives between -- prior to 10:30, let me know and we can
10 go straight to that. And, if not, we'll do that at 10:30,
11 and then you can, I assume, do sort of a combined tech
12 session or you can figure out how to sequence the two
13 things.

14 MS. AMIDON: Yes. We're going to do a
15 combined technical session, and we'll also have a
16 procedural schedule, which will be the same for each
17 docket, so that we have the hearings on the same day.

18 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Great. Thank you. All
19 right. If there's nothing further, I appreciate your
20 efforts and good luck. Thank you.

21 (Whereupon the prehearing conference
22 ended at 10:14 a.m., and the Staff and
23 the Parties convened a technical session
24 thereafter.)