

1	STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE		
2		PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	
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4	February 10, 2 Concord, New I	2011 - 10:01 a.m. Hampshire NHPUC MARO1'11 am 9:45	
5	concora, wew i	Tamporities.	
6	RE:	DE 10-326	
7	Χ.	GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a NATIONAL GRID:	
8		Tariff Filing Revising its Outdoor Lighting Service.	
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12	PRESENT:	Chairman Thomas B. Getz, Presiding	
13			
14		Sandy Deno, Clerk	
15			
16			
17	APPEARANCES:	Reptg. Granite State Electric Co.: d/b/a National Grid:	
18		Sarah B. Knowlton, Esq.	
19		Reptg. the Town of Hanover: Peter Kulbacki	
20		Reptg. PUC Staff:	
21		Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.	
22			
23	Cou	rt Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52	
24			



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PROCEEDING

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Good morning, everyone. We'll open the hearing in Docket DE 10-326. On December 10, 2010, National Grid filed a proposed tariff revision to its Outdoor Lighting Service Rate M, for effect with service rendered on and after January 1, 2011. Filing was made pursuant to RSA 9-E:4, which requires the establishment of requirements for electric utility rates for partial night use of outdoor lighting systems. We issued an order on January 7 suspending the tariff and scheduling the hearing for this morning.

I'll note for the record that there have been a number of public comments that have been filed, and they're in the docketbook and can be found on our website.

And, I also note that the affidavit of publication has been submitted by the Company.

So, with that, appearances please.

MS. KNOWLTON: Good morning, Chairman.

My name is Sarah Knowlton. I'm with the law firm of McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton. I'm here today on behalf of Granite State Electric Company, which does business as National Grid. And, with me today from the Company is the Company's witness John Walter, and next to Mr. Walter is Ms. Lloyd, from the Company's Rates

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       Division.
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                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: Good morning.
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                         MS. AMIDON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
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       Suzanne Amidon, for Commission Staff, and with me today is
 5
       Al Azad Iqbal, an Analyst with the Electric Division.
 6
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Good morning.
 7
                         MS. AMIDON: And, just as a procedural
      point, I don't -- Mr. -- Is it "Kulbacki"?
 8
 9
                         MR. KULBACKI: That's pretty good.
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                         MS. AMIDON: -- with the Town of Hanover
11
       is here. And, I know he has -- he may have some comments.
       And, the Company has indicated that, if Mr. Kulbacki has
12
13
       some questions, they're willing to have their witness
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       answer them as well. So, I just thought I would mention
15
       that for your information.
16
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Thank you.
                                                            Well,
       are you ready to proceed?
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18
                         MS. KNOWLTON: Yes. And, one more
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       procedural matter. I would like to request that the
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       Company's filing, which is the prefiled "Direct Testimony
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       of John E. Walter", be marked for identification as
       "Exhibit 1".
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23
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: So marked.
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                         (The document, as described, was
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herewith marked as Exhibit 1 for
 1
 2
                         identification.)
 3
                         MS. KNOWLTON: And, I've provided
 4
                It's the same document that was filed. It's just
       copies.
 5
       Bates stamped, and it has "Exhibit 1" in the upper
 6
       right-hand corner. So, thank you. The Company calls John
 7
       Walter.
 8
                          (Whereupon John E. Walter was duly sworn
 9
                         and cautioned by the Court Reporter.)
10
                         JOHN E. WALTER, SWORN
11
                           DIRECT EXAMINATION
12
    BY MS. KNOWLTON:
13
          Good morning, Mr. Walter.
14
          Good morning.
15
          Would you please state your full name for the record.
16
     Α.
          John E Walter.
17
          By whom are you provided?
     Q.
18
     Α.
          National Grid.
19
          What is your job with National Grid?
     Q.
20
          I'm the Manager Outdoor Lighting for the Company.
21
          How long have you held that position?
     Q.
          Approximately eleven years.
22
     Α.
23
          And, would you give a general description of your job
     Q.
24
          duties?
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- A. My duties are that I am responsible for regulatory
 strategy associated with outdoor lighting, the
 implementation of the tariffs associated with that in
 all our service territories, policies, procedures, and
 the information systems that manage the inventory and
 billing.
- 7 Q. Would you briefly describe your educational background?
- 8 A. I have a Bachelor's and a Master's in Engineering,
 9 Civil Engineering, and an MBA from the University of
 10 Buffalo.
- 11 Q. Thank you. Are you familiar with the document that's

 12 been marked for identification as "Exhibit 1", which is

 13 the prefiled direct testimony?
- 14 A. I am familiar with that.
- 15 Q. Was that prepared by you or under your direction?
- 16 A. It was.
- 17 Q. Do you have any corrections to that testimony?
- 18 A. I do. On the Seventh Revised Page 60, under "Other 19 Charges", there's a reference to --
- Q. And, just one, actually, if I could slow you down one minute, because we did give a Bates stamped copy. And, I think that's Page 19 on the Bates stamped copy.
- 23 A. Okay. Thank you.
- MS. KNOWLTON: I'm going to -- actually,

1 if I hand the witness the Bates stamped version.

BY THE WITNESS:

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- So, to begin again, Page 19 of the exhibit, under "Other Charges", Seventh Revised Page 60, reference to "RSA 9-D:4", should be "RSA 9-E:4". The situation was that it was -- the legislation identified it as "D", but, ultimately, the document was codified under the Chapter 9-E.
- 9 BY MS. KNOWLTON:
- 10 If I were to ask you today the questions that are contained in your testimony, would the answers be the same, subject to the correction that you just made? 12
- 13 They would. Α.
- 14 MS. KNOWLTON: Thank you. I'll make the 15 witness available for cross-examination, unless the 16 Chairman would like me to conduct further examination of 17 him?
- 18 CHAIRMAN GETZ: No, I think that's fine.
- Ms. Amidon. 19
- 20 MS. AMIDON: Yes. Thank you.
- 21 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- BY MS. AMIDON: 22
- 23 If I understand correctly -- good morning, by the way.
- 24 Good morning. Α.

- Q. This tariff was filed pursuant to legislation that was passed here in the State of New Hampshire, is that correct?
 - A. That is correct.

- Q. And, could you briefly describe what -- how the Company complies with that legislation with its tariff?
 - A. The basis of the legislation, as the Company took it, was that it was an energy efficiency legislation, looking for the partial operation of streetlights to be, in effect, turned off at some portion of the night to save the energy portion of the billing for the energy saved. The only other element was to identify and utilize certain luminaires that meets specific criteria, and we're also adopting that. The generic term is to use a "fully shielded" or "full cutoff" luminaire.
 - Q. Thank you. And, I know that the Staff served some discovery on the Company. And, one of the questions was, it involved the charge the Company would make for the service of coming out and changing over the light, is that correct?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- Q. And, as I understand it, in discovery, the Staff asked "would this same charge", and I'm going to trust my

memory and say it was roughly \$150, "would that same charge apply or could it be -- or could the service be provided at less cost, with a scheduled -- on a scheduled maintenance of the fixture?" Do you recall that?

A. I do recall that.

- Q. Okay. And, the Company -- could you tell us what the Company's response was to that or the adjustment the Company was willing to make regarding changing over the lights on scheduled maintenance?
- A. The situation would be that, as this service is above and beyond the normal maintenance that's incorporated with our current rates, if the customer desires the application of this part-night device being installed on an existing light, that would otherwise not require the Company to partake in visiting that light, then we would charge the -- what we were referring to as a "service charge" of the \$150 as a flat rate charge per light.

What the Company would like to propose as part of the request of Staff was that, for those lights where the Company will or has a request to go and perform other routine maintenance, such as an outage at that light, what we would propose is to just

charge the incremental cost of the device from what is
already out there to what this new device would incur.

The same would also be true for new installs that the
customer would desire, if they so elected to, from its
initiation, put in a part-night service, it would be
the full cost of that installation, plus just the
incremental charge for that.

- Q. And, as I understand it, the Company is willing to amend its tariff, assuming that the Commission approves this filing, to reflect the changes that you just mentioned, is that right?
- 12 A. That is correct.

- Q. And, other than an outage, are there any other scheduled maintenance where a customer could take advantage of the lower costs of installation?
- A. In a situation where the customer would have, as I would phrase it, a "standing order" for all lights to be changed to this Part-Night Option, for any cause that the Company would go there for any other services as part of our normal tariff, then we would perform this for that incremental charge.

MS. AMIDON: Okay. That concludes our cross-examination. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Sir, did you

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1
       have any questions?
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                         MR. KULBACKI: Yes. My name is Pete
 3
       Kulbacki. I'm with the Town of Hanover.
 4
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: It might be easier just
 5
       to speak into the microphone.
 6
                         MR. KULBACKI:
                                        Sure. I have a letter I
 7
       wanted to give you a copy of. I've made extra copies.
 8
                         MS. AMIDON: Why don't you give them to
 9
       me, I'll hand them out.
10
                         MR. KULBACKI: Sure.
11
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: And, it's "Peter
12
       Kulbacki"?
                         MR. KULBACKI: Yes, it is.
13
14
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: I note that we have at
15
       least one e-mail from a Lyn Swett Miller, who is the Chair
16
       of the Sustainable Hanover Committee.
17
                         MR. KULBACKI: Yes.
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: Is that affiliated --
18
19
                         MR. KULBACKI: She's a -- I'm a
       recruited member of that committee as well.
20
21
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay.
22
                                        This letter is from Julia
                         MR. KULBACKI:
23
       Griffin, and it really summarizes some of the concerns the
24
       Town had. And, some have been addressed as well already.
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One was the one you just talked about, incremental cost charge, which is just doing extra work, which is something we supported. We support the idea of the changeover, the part-night technology is something that we think is a good first step. What we'd like to see considered, one is how the charge is made, the \$150 charge. In the original tariff, I haven't seen any subsequent paperwork on that, is that it's paid for during the next billing cycle.

The concern we have is that, if we were to change our lights over, which we have a considerable number of lights that we are considering changing over, we would almost have to double our budget in a given year to try to do that. And, if there's some way that could be spread out over time, we have no problem with the rate, but it's just how compact and how it affects our budget. It represents about the wages of two employees. So, our choice would be to lay a couple people off to change the lights, but that's not something we would like to do.

And, we'd also like to see some pursuit of some additional look at LED technology or some other technology that can have some additional energy savings. We did have some experience with some of our neighboring communities in Vermont, where Green Mountain Power offers LED lighting. Not sure of the fixtures or any details,

but they do have a tariff in the State of Vermont Public
Utilities Commission. So, they do have an ability to do
some other technology, and that's what -- we'd like to see
that considered either now or at some point in the near

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Thank you. Well, I have a few questions for Mr. Walter.

BY CHAIRMAN GETZ:

future.

Q. I guess, one, following up on one of the points

Mr. Kulbacki has made, on Page 6 of your testimony says

that, on Line 2, "National Grid will process the

requests on an as-received basis." And, "work orders

will be created for each individual light specified for

an operation option change." So, do I take it from -
then, if I understand Mr. Kulbacki's concern, is they

don't want to do everything at once, they would like to

do some subset of lights, I guess, every year.

MR. KULBACKI: Ideally, we would like to do them all at once, but we just don't have the budget to do them all at once. That's the concern.

BY CHAIRMAN GETZ:

- Q. So, I mean, that approach works under the tariff, is that fair?
- A. The situation there was -- that was represented in

testimony identified that, different than other
utilities have implemented, what we're looking to do
is, as requested by the municipality, we would then
write a specific order for the specific light to be
adjusted. Once that work order is then completed, our
billing system would automatically charge the fixed
unit price associated with that change, and that would
show up as an adjustment on their bill. It would
summarize, if we did multiple units, it would just
tally that service charge on the bill for them during
that bill period. So, it really is driven by the work
accomplished, which is different than the other
utilities, which actually charge it as a fee up front.
So, that's what we would do.

- 15 Q. Well, that's in the timing of the billing.
- 16 A. Right.

- Q. But, I mean, it basically reacts to their selection of which lights to be changed over and when?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. Let me try to make sure I understand a little
 bit about the technology. So, a crew will go out to a
 pole and install a new device. But is that a -- is it
 a timing that's set for the whole year? I mean, how
 does it react through the year between, you know, dusk

and dawn? Is it photosensitive? Is a computer chip timed and --

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It's actually -- I'm sorry, sir. It's actually both. Α. It's the photosensor identifies ambient daylight or darkness, and it actually -- then the chip takes over and does two things. It's both managing the control of the light for that evening cycle, but also recognizes the occurrence of what occurred the night before. So, the operation of the device that we're proposing is that it will turn on at dusk, it will operate until one half of the dusk-to-dawn period measured the night before, divides that in half, turns the light off at The light will remain off for five and a that time. half hours. And, if there is -- if the ambient light level is still dark enough to cause the light to turn on, in the morning hours, it will turn back on, until such time as dawn occurs and the light will then turn off.

The Company's position is that that short amount of time in the early morning hours may be helpful to the safety and well-being of the general public in the winter months, when you could have school children waiting at a bus stop or people going to work.

Q. And, you've said that, I guess with the -- "the

Company's...will notify customers the" -- I guess it's
on Page 5, Line 20, and following, that "municipal
account managers will notify municipal customers of the
availability of [this option]." Has that already
happened or that would happen after the tariff is
approved? What's the status of that?

- A. The plan would be that, after the tariff is approved, and specifically with the changes being proposed even here today, with the incremental cost adjustment, all of that would be incorporated, and then communications initially written to the municipalities to identify them all, and then a follow-up with the account managers to those customers that have inquiries to implement this.
- Q. And, is this something that National Grid uses in other jurisdictions, this approach?
- 17 A. It is not. This is the only service territory where we offer the -- or plan to offer the Part-Night Option.
 - Q. What happens if -- is there the flexibility to do something different in different towns, whether it's a five and a half hour or no turn on before dawn? I assume that gets pretty complicated?
 - A. It does get complicated. However, part of the creation of the rate structure and the strategy that we

developed was to identify the burning hours for the Part-Night Option, which in the tariff is defined as "2,448 hours". That value incorporates a device that we're proposing here today. In the event that there would be another device or an option that a customer would desire that would differ from the operating model that I defined earlier, the potential would be that we could provide that as a different device, but still charge them under this flat rate of the 2,448 hours, burning hours. The situation creates basically a threshold for Part-Night Service, which is similar but different to the threshold created for Dusk-to-Dawn Service.

- Q. And, I guess the reason I asked about other jurisdictions and what contact has been made so far is just the concern that, what if you get other options or other requests, and how difficult that is and how likely that is that variations on a theme will be sought on a town-by-town basis?
- A. You're correct that the requests by the customer base will be great. Everybody wants what they want. So, it creates almost a variable situation. The legislation here in New Hampshire actually identified it as a "Part-Night Option", and not a "Midnight Option",

midnight being 12 a.m. So, we were able to deal with
that. And, the complexity internally for the Company
managing different devices associated with that
variability to what the customer wants does create a
huge billing and stocking problem for the operation of
those lights going forward.

- Q. So, this is your attempt at trying to balance the costs to the customers and to the -- and to come up with an option that seems to address the statute and what you expect to be a reasonable effort to have the -- to satisfy the dark sky concerns and the cost savings for the Part-Night Option? Is that fair?
- A. Yes, sir. Everything you've said is. It's the blending and trying to balance all of that.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Anything else?

MS. KNOWLTON: May I -- I want to, if I

may do very limited redirect of Mr. Walter. I would like for him to address the issue raised by the Town of Hanover regarding the availability of LED lighting, and why the Company didn't include that offering in its proposed tariff.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. KNOWLTON:

24 | Q. So, if you could address that please, Mr. Walter.

A. National Grid is, of course, very aware of the new technologies that are being proposed for outdoor lighting. LEDs are the technology that is most marketed. However, there are actually other technologies that are being developed. So, we're cognizant of all of those developments as they push forward, and I'm sure the general public will be made more aware of those in the near future.

The situation with LEDs specifically is that the efficiency or lumins per watt is on par or equal to the current high-intensity discharge technology that the Company presently uses. Within that high-intensity discharge technology, we have the high-pressure sodium lamps, which provide the amber or yellow light. And, then, there is, of course, mercury vapor and metal halide are the other technologies available in streetlighting.

So, from an efficiency standpoint, they're equal, however, everybody views the LEDs as being energy efficient. And, the issue is that the marketing is such that, when an LED luminaire is procured by a customer, the marketer will be selling you one that produces less lumins, therefore using less energy than what is currently in service today.

The situation, why people tend to like
the LED, it produces a white light, and the human eye
reacts better to white light for color recognition and
visual acuity. So, people will say they can see better
with the white light, even though the amount of lumin

output is less.

So, although slightly long-winded, and I apologize for that, there is a sense of energy efficiency gained, but the customer needs to recognize they're getting less product, lumins, for the price.

- Q. But can you explain why the Company didn't propose the LEDs? Are there issues associated with that from the Company's perspective?
- A. So, in addition to the efficiency issue, from a technology perspective, and the Company looks at things in a very long time frame, as we would establish a rate and a billing structure and to move forward. And, the assets that we tend to put in the field we anticipate to last for quite a long time, by which the rates then capture those costs.

First of all, from a technology standpoint, there are no industry standards. They're being developed, but there are no industry standards for manufacturers to make like kind products. Again,

as I mentioned before, there's multiple technologies in the solid state arena; LED, OLED, and plasma. The LED quality of the light-emitting diode itself varies.

And, there's issues associated with binning, which is to group like kind light-emitting diodes, so that you get the same light output in the technology or the luminaire. You have driver technology that varies.

That's the electrical -- the electrical component that makes the light operate.

Most significant to all of this is the thermal management that is required within that. LEDs generate an awful lot of heat that has to be expelled from the luminaire. And, everybody has a different process by which that occurs. That's a direct relationship to the life that you can expect from a luminaire.

Surge protection associated with solid state technology on what is our distribution system, which is -- tends to be somewhat of an older system. Environmental issues associated with that solid state technology being in an open environment, weather conditions, and things such as insects and other circumstances that occur out there, vibration.

And, the failure measurement for what

defines the failure of a luminaire, as is today, with the HID technology, the lamp will fail and it will not light. In LEDs, where you have multiple LEDs that generate the light output, you can have some of those individual LEDs fail and still creating light output. There's no way to really determine or measure what achieves that light depreciation at the level which the industry recognizes as failure.

There's unknowns in life. Everything that's been defined by the marketers today is analytical. They're extrapolations of escalated in situ or in-service testing within a laboratory, and then they extrapolate them out to 100,000 hours or more. So, all of those conditions create an aspect of uncertainty for the utility in adopting that technology.

Then, we would roll into the issue of cost. The cost of the technology is somewhere on the order of four to ten times what we currently pay for the existing technology. So, from a facility perspective, we would anticipate our rates greatly increasing to capture that facility charge. This is even considering the potential for reduced maintenance, because you still have a bell curve associated with

premature failures and other types of conditions.

The other element to all of this is that, where the current technology is very stable, this technology turns over approximately every 18 months. So, the energy efficiency, the technology of the luminaires, everything that goes into the new LED luminaires will actually change significantly, such that we would be forced to re-evaluate and re-file on about an 18-month or 24-month period just to keep in step.

In general, a regulated, analytical rate model that we presently have for the current technology is unsustainable in its application for the new technology. So, as much as we keep an eye on the technology and hope for some stabilization of that, we're also looking at the rate structure model that we want to use to move forward.

So, in addition to the technology element, we also recognize what's happening within the industry associated with the hours of operation.

That's what this new tariff offering is for the Part-Night. And, the new LED or solid state lighting technology offers the potential for dimming, similar to what you would experience in your home. So, you end up

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with three variables, when it comes to ratemaking, both
 1
 2
          in product, hours of operation, and then the dimming
 3
          capability, and it doesn't really allow for an
          analytical rate model that we currently use.
 4
 5
                         MS. KNOWLTON:
                                        I have nothing further
 6
       for Mr. Walter.
 7
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Anything
       further for Mr. Walter?
 8
 9
                         MS. AMIDON: No.
10
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: Then, hearing nothing,
11
       you're excused.
                        Thank you.
12
                         WITNESS WALTER:
                                          Thank you.
13
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ:
                                         Is there any objection
14
       to striking the identification and admitting the exhibit
15
       into evidence?
16
                         (No verbal response)
17
                         CHAIRMAN GETZ: Hearing no objection, it
18
       will be admitted into evidence. We'll give an opportunity
19
       for closing statements. I'll start with you,
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       Mr. Kulbacki. You've now had the opportunity to read
21
       Ms. Griffin's letter with the specific request. But, if
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       there's anything else you'd like to say, this would be
      your opportunity?
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24
                                        I really -- I covered the
                         MR. KULBACKI:
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substance, really, summarized it, and our desire to continue to look at LED. We are doing LED in our lighting. We have Energy -- a grant from Office of Energy & Planning for the State of New Hampshire to replace our streetlights on Main Street with LED, to change from high-pressure sodium. We are also changing bridge lights as well. We have -- we have neighboring communities in Vermont who have LEDs, and it's offered through a tariff to -- at Green Mountain Power, so there is other tariffs out there that meet some standards. I'm not sure exactly what they use for lighting, but they do have a tariff and the ability to have LED installed. And, the current \$150 charge, if it's charged at the time of service, we won't be able to afford to make use of this, that Part-Night, because of the upfront costs. And, that's a big concern of ours. And, we really want to use it, but having an upfront cost that almost doubles our streetlight budget for one year is not something we can do. CHAIRMAN GETZ: What does Hanover do with respect to its own streetlighting, in terms of part-night options? MR. KULBACKI: We don't have part-night

MR. KULBACKI: We don't have part-night yet. I'm sure it will be requested as we get into these a little bit more. Our first step was to try to look at the

1 LED technology, because we have a number of people working in the surrounding communities who have seen them used in 2 3 streetlights and other areas. So, that was our first And, we will be looking at the Part-Night, because 4 step. 5 it's something we welcome. It's just that the upfront 6 cost of changing all the ones we'd like to change is out 7 of our -- really out of what we can afford at this point. If it were spread over time, then we would jump at the 8 9 opportunity. 10 Thank you. Ms. Amidon. CHAIRMAN GETZ: 11 MS. AMIDON: Thank you. Staff has reviewed the filing. And, with the change that we 12 13 referred to in my examination of Mr. Walter regarding the 14 incremental cost for installing the device where it's 15 associated with other maintenance or work on the fixture, 16 we support the filing of the Company and look forward to 17 seeing the revised tariff, assuming the Commission grants 18 its approval to the filing.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you.

Ms. Knowlton.

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MS. KNOWLTON: Thank you. As Mr. Walter indicated, the Company is agreeable to include in a final compliance tariff the incremental change that he described in his testimony.

1	As a general matter, the Company
2	believes that the tariff that it has submitted, subject to
3	that one change with regard to the incremental cost, when
4	it's already going out into the field and servicing a
5	particular light to install a part-night device on a light
6	for the incremental cost is the tariff would be just
7	and reasonable. The price under the tariff is adequately
8	explained in Mr. Walter's testimony. And, I think is in
9	the general ballpark of the types of charges that are
10	charged by other utilities. The Town's letter refers to
11	the tariffed rate of Public Service of New Hampshire,
12	which is \$163 per streetlight; the Company here is
13	proposing 150.
14	So, I think, overall, the rate is just
15	and reasonable. And, I think the tariff, as it's
16	proposed, complies with the dictates of the statute. And,
17	we would ask that, subject to the one change described by
18	Mr. Walter, that it be approved.
19	CHAIRMAN GETZ: All right. Thank you.
20	Then, we'll close the hearing and take the matter under
21	advisement.
22	(Whereupon the hearing ended at 10:34
23	a.m.)
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