THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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December 16, 2011

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Re: DE 11-215, Public Service Company of New Hampshire

2012 Energy Service Rate

DE 11-217, Public Service Company of New Hampshire

2012 Stranded Cost Recovery Charge Motion for Postponement of Hearing

To the Parties:

On December 14, 2011, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a motion to postpone the December 19, 2011 merits hearing scheduled in the above-captioned dockets until such time as there is a hearing on temporary rates in Docket No. DE 11-250. Docket No. DE 11-250 is a proceeding to examine the costs of recovery for the flue gas desulphurization (scrubber) unit installed at Merrimack Station. PSNH is seeking a temporary rate of 1.18 cents per kWh to recover certain costs associated with the scrubber unit and the parties to DE 11-250 have agreed to a mid-February hearing on PSNH's request for temporary rates. In its motion, PSNH proposes that the existing energy service rate of 8.89 cents per kWh remain in effect until the February hearing in DE 11-250. PSNH indicates that Staff takes no position on the motion and that the Office of the Consumer Advocate and the Conservation Law Foundation have not indicated their position.

In DE 11-215, PSNH estimates a significant decrease in energy service rates from 8.89 cents per kWh to 7.90 cents per kWh proposed for January 1, 2012, without including the costs of the scrubber. In support of its motion, PSNH argues that if these rates were to be approved, customers would first experience a significant decrease in energy service rates on January 1, and then a comparable rate increase soon thereafter for temporary rates for the scrubber. PSNH expressed concerns associated with rate volatility given the close proximity in time for the proposed change in rates and the magnitude of the change.

In order to afford an opportunity for all parties to be heard on the motion, the hearings will be held as scheduled, with the following change. The Commission will take argument on the motion to postpone at the outset of the hearing in DE 11-215 (scheduled for 9:30 a.m.).

Sincerely,

Debra A. Howland Executive Director

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Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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Docket #: 11-215-1 Printed: December 19, 2011

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with: DEBRA A HOWLAND

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.

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Docket #: 11-217-1 Printed: December 19, 2011

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