

DE 11-250

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January 23, 2014

Her Excellency, Governor Maggie Hassan
Office of the Governor
State of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street
State House – Room 208
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
Docket No. DE 11-250; Public Service Company of New Hampshire
Investigation of Scrubber Costs and Cost Recovery
Application for Special Commissioner

Dear Governor Hassan:

The Commission has pending before it a docket to consider the prudence of the costs and cost recovery for the wet flue gas desulfurization system (Scrubber) installed by Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) at its coal-fired generation plant known as Merrimack Station. The Office of Consumer Advocate, the New England Power Generators Association, Inc., Jim and Sandy Dannis, TransCanada Power Marketing Ltd and TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc., the Sierra Club and the Conservation Law Foundation are all parties to this docket.

One of the three Commissioners, Robert Scott, recused himself from this docket due to his involvement with the Scrubber while at the Department of Environmental Services prior to his appointment as Commissioner. While it is permissible to conduct hearings with less than three Commissioners, we have by Order No.25,622 (January 23, 2014) granted the request of certain parties to the docket to request appointment of a special commissioner for the duration of this proceeding.

If a sitting commissioner is disqualified, RSA 363:20 authorizes the Commission to ask that the Governor appoint a special commissioner and authorizes the Governor, with the consent of the Executive Council, to appoint such a special commissioner. In light of Commissioner Scott's disqualification, the importance and complexity of this docket, and the risks of proceeding with only two Commissioners, the Commission requests the appointment of a special commissioner to act in Commissioner Scott's place in Docket DE 11-250.

Sincerely,

Amy L. Ignatius
Chairman

Martin P. Honigberg
Commissioner

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