

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

CHAIRMAN
Amy L. Ignatius

COMMISSIONERS
Michael D. Harrington
Robert R. Scott

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Debra A. Howland

TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX (603) 271-3878

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

April 26, 2012

To: Commissioners

From: Suzanne Amidon, Hearings Examiner

Re: Docket No. DG 12-001
EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. d/b/a National Grid NH
Investigation into Excess Capacity
Prehearing Conference

HEARING EXAMINER'S REPORT

At your request, I presided over the April 26, 2012 prehearing conference in the above-captioned docket. The prehearing conference was held pursuant to an Order of Notice issued in Docket No. DG 12-001 on February 22, 2012.

Procedural Matters

The affidavit of publication was filed on March 6, 2012.

The Office of Consumer Advocate filed a letter on March 1, 2012 stating that it would participate in this docket on behalf of residential ratepayers.

Appearances

McLane, Graf, Raulerson and Middleton, P.A. by Patrick H. Taylor, Esq. for
EnergyNorth National Gas, Inc. d/b/a National Grid

Office of Consumer Advocate by Stephen R. Eckberg

Commission Staff by Alexander Speidel, Esq. Attorney Speidel stated that he was covering the prehearing conference for Staff Attorney Marcia A.B. Thunberg, Esq. who is assigned to this docket.

Intervention Requests

No petitions to intervene were filed and based on inquiry no party at the prehearing conference requested intervention in this proceeding.

Preliminary Positions of the Parties

National Grid prefiled testimony on April 24, 2012. In its prehearing conference statement, the Company said that its resource portfolio does not have excess capacity. National Grid stated that considering its resource planning and procurement, the Commission's regulatory requirements (citing the 7 day requirement of Puc 506.03), peak demand, and reliability, the Company's excess capacity is prudent and in the public interest. The Company said that, at times when it has excess capacity, it sells the capacity into the market for the benefit of customers. National Grid said it would be extremely costly and difficult to replace excess capacity if it is required to reduce it.

The Office of Consumer Advocate stated that it had no preliminary position on the docket and would be participating in the docket on a limited basis.

Commission Staff said it had no preliminary position but will participate in the investigation as described in the Order of Notice. Regarding the technical session to follow the prehearing conference, Staff noted that the Company's prefiled testimony was filed on April 24, 2012 and that it was unlikely that the technical session would be used for discovery given the resulting limited time to review the testimony.

Following the technical session, Attorney Speidel informed the parties and the hearings examiner that he wanted to allow Attorney Thunberg an opportunity to review the proposed schedule before filing it with the Commission and that a proposed schedule would be filed by or on May 1, 2012.

By,



Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.
Hearings Examiner

Service List