

Qualifications of Kenneth E. Traum

My name is Kenneth E. Traum. I am the Assistant Consumer Advocate for the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA). My business address is 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 18, Concord, New Hampshire 03301. I have been affiliated with the OCA for approximately fifteen (15) years.

I received a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of New Hampshire in June, 1971, and an MBA from the same University in June, 1973. Upon graduation, I first worked as an accountant/auditor for a private contractor and then for the New Hampshire State Council on Aging before going to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC) in February, 1976. At the NHPUC, I started as an Accountant III, advanced to a PUC Examiner and finally, became Assistant Finance Director.

In my positions with the NHPUC, I was involved in all aspects of rate cases, assisted others in the preparation of testimony and presented direct testimony, conducted cross-examination of witnesses, directed and participated in audits of utilities and performed other duties as required. While employed at the NHPUC, I was a member of the NARUC Staff Subcommittee of Accounts and attended the NARUC Regulatory Studies Program at Michigan State.

In 1984, I left the NHPUC for Bay State Gas Company. With Bay State, I was involved in various aspects of financial analysis for Northern Utilities, Inc., Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc., and Bay State Gas Company, as well as regulatory activities with regard to Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and the FERC.

In early 1986, I returned to New Hampshire to join the Energy/North companies, where my areas of responsibility included cash management, regulatory affairs, forecasting and other financial matters. While with EnergyNorth, I was a member of the New England Utility Rate Forum and the New England Gas Association. I also represented the utility, which is the largest natural gas utility in New Hampshire, over a two year period in the generic Commission docket (DE 86-208) which developed a methodology for conducting gas marginal cost studies.

In 1989, I joined the Office of Consumer Advocate with overall responsibility for advising the Consumer Advocate and its Advisory Board on all Financial, Accounting, Economic and Rate Design issues which arise in the course of utility ratemaking or cases concerning determinations of revenue responsibility, competition, mergers, acquisitions or decommissioning. I assist the Consumer Advocate and the OCA Advisory Board in formulating policy and follow through to ensure that policy is implemented by the Office. In that role, I have testified before the NHPUC on many occasions. In early 2005, I was promoted to Assistant Consumer Advocate.

I am a member of the NASUCA (National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates), Committees on Electricity, Economics and Finance, and Gas.

I am also a member of the Board of Directors for Granite State Independent Living as well as their Co-Chair for their Finance Committee and serve on the Advisory Board for N.H. Dig Safe.