

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
Reconciliation of Energy Service and Stranded Costs for  
Calendar Year 2012

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
FREDERICK B. WHITE

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q. Please state your name.**

3 A. My name is Frederick B. White.

4 **Q. Mr. White, please provide your business address and title.**

5 A. My business address is 107 Selden St, Berlin, Connecticut. I am a Supervisor in the  
6 Electric Supply department of Northeast Utilities Service Company (NUSCO).

7 **Q. Mr. White, please describe your responsibilities at NUSCO.**

8 A. NUSCO provides centralized administrative services to Northeast Utilities' principal  
9 subsidiaries, including Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH), The  
10 Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P), Western Massachusetts Electric  
11 Company (WMECO), and NSTAR. I primarily supervise and provide analytical support  
12 required to fulfill the power supply requirement obligations of PSNH, CL&P, and  
13 WMECO. For PSNH, this includes the development of Energy Service rates, evaluation of  
14 the need to supplement PSNH's resources for the provision of Energy Service, and  
15 PSNH's acquisition of Financial Transmission Rights (FTR) to manage congestion. For  
16 CL&P and WMECO, I assist in the design and execution of the power supply sourcing  
17 associated with these companies' versions of energy service. I participate in ISO-NE  
18 stakeholder meetings and monitor ISO-NE, NEPOOL, and FERC activities to ensure that  
19 our operations are up to date.

1 **II. PURPOSE**

2 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

3 A. The purpose of my testimony is to report on how PSNH's generation resources and  
4 supplemental purchases were used to meet PSNH's energy and capacity requirements  
5 during the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. As a load-serving entity,  
6 PSNH is responsible for having sufficient energy to meet the hourly needs of its customers  
7 and is also responsible for its share of the ISO-NE capacity requirement. PSNH is also the  
8 default provider of service to customers who for any reason are otherwise without a service  
9 provider. PSNH meets its requirements through its owned generation, PURPA-mandated  
10 purchases under short term rates and long term rate orders, and through supplemental  
11 purchases of energy and capacity from the market. I will also discuss PSNH's  
12 participation in the FTR auction process.

13 **III. ENERGY REQUIREMENTS**

14 **Q. Please summarize the generation resources that were available to meet PSNH's**  
15 **energy requirements during the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.**

16 A. Attachment FBW-1 lists the generation resource portfolio PSNH used to meet its  
17 customers' energy requirements as of December, 2012. As shown on that Attachment,  
18 PSNH's available generation capacity during this time period was about 1,254 MW for the  
19 summer months. The portfolio is comprised of the following resource groups:  
20 hydroelectric (57 MW from nine stations), coal and wood (577 MW from Merrimack and  
21 Schiller Stations), gas/oil (419 MW from Newington and Wyman 4), combustion turbines  
22 (83 MW from five units), wind (2 MW from Lempster), and non-utility generation (26  
23 MW from numerous PURPA-mandated purchases, 10 MW from one IPP buyout  
24 replacement contract, and 80 MW from five independent wood-fired power producers).  
25 Note that PSNH's power purchase agreement with Vermont Yankee expired March 21,  
26 2012.

27 **Q. Please summarize how PSNH's generation resources met PSNH's energy**  
28 **requirements during 2012.**

29 A. Attachment FBW-2 summarizes how PSNH's energy requirements were met and how  
30 PSNH's generation resources were utilized by month during peak and off-peak periods.

1 During 2012, 57% of peak energy requirements and 63% of off-peak energy requirements  
2 were met with the generation resources listed on FBW-1. The remaining energy needs  
3 were met through short term bilateral or spot market energy purchases.

4 **Q. Was PSNH's generation sufficient to meet PSNH's energy requirements in every**  
5 **month?**

6 A. No. PSNH does not own sufficient generating capability to meet its customers' energy  
7 requirements in all hours and, therefore, must purchase a portion of its customers' needs.  
8 The purchase requirement changes hourly and can range from zero to a significant portion,  
9 depending on the availability of PSNH's resources, the level of demand, the migration of  
10 customers to competitive energy service options, and the relative economics of PSNH's  
11 generation versus purchase alternatives.

12 **Q. Please summarize how supplemental purchases were used to meet PSNH's energy**  
13 **requirements.**

14 A. Attachment FBW-3 summarizes the purchases made to supplement PSNH's generating  
15 resources. Approximately 1,141 GWh of peak energy were purchased at an average cost of  
16 \$37.78 per MWh (a total expense of \$43.1 million). 663 GWh (58%) were purchased  
17 bilaterally at an average cost of \$34.57 per MWh (a total expense of \$22.9 million). Of  
18 that, 461 GWh (40% of total) were procured via fixed-price monthly contracts to address  
19 forecasted supplemental requirements and planned unit outages, and 202 GWh (18% of  
20 total) were procured via fixed-price shorter term arrangements (e.g. daily, weekly) to  
21 address unplanned outages and higher load periods. The remaining 478 GWh (42%) of  
22 peak energy were procured via the ISO-NE hourly spot market at an average cost of \$42.24  
23 per MWh (a total expense of \$20.2 million).

24 Approximately 876 GWh of off-peak energy were purchased at an average cost of \$32.72  
25 per MWh (a total expense of \$28.7 million). 241 GWh (27%) were purchased bilaterally at  
26 an average cost of \$33.98 per MWh (a total expense of \$8.2 million). Of that, 101 GWh  
27 (12% of total) were procured via fixed-price monthly contracts to address forecasted  
28 supplemental requirements and planned unit outages, and 140 GWh (16% of total) were  
29 procured via fixed-price shorter term arrangements (e.g. daily, weekly) to address  
30 unplanned outages and higher load periods. The remaining approximately 635 GWh  
31 (73%) of off-peak energy were procured via the ISO-NE hourly spot market at an average

1 cost of \$32.25 per MWh (a total expense of \$20.5 million). The combined expense for all  
2 supplemental energy purchases was \$71.8 million. (Figures may not add due to rounding.)

3 **Q. Were there any hours in which PSNH's supply resources exceeded PSNH's energy**  
4 **needs?**

5 A. Yes. Attachment FBW-3 also summarizes the hours in which supply resources, including  
6 supplemental bilateral purchases, exceeded energy requirements resulting in sales to the  
7 ISO-NE spot market. Approximately 64 GWh of peak energy were sold at an average  
8 price of \$54.02 (total revenues of \$3.5 million). In addition, approximately 95 GWh of  
9 off-peak energy were sold at an average price of \$30.99 (total revenues of \$3.0 million).  
10 The combined revenue for all surplus energy sales was \$6.4 million (does not add due to  
11 rounding).

12 **Q. Please summarize how commodity prices (oil, natural gas, and energy) varied during**  
13 **2012.**

14 A. Attachment FBW-4 is a chart of the 2012 daily prices for crude oil (West Texas  
15 Intermediate), natural gas (delivered to Algonquin Gate), and bilateral energy (peak hours  
16 at the Mass. HUB). The chart shows the range of commodity and energy market prices in  
17 2012. The chart also shows the continuing correlation between natural gas prices and  
18 energy purchase prices in New England. Note also that 2012 was characterized by low  
19 prices, particularly during the first half of the year, owing to warm winter weather and the  
20 resulting surplus natural gas in storage which persisted throughout most of the year.

21 **Q. Please summarize the impact of commodity market volatility on the cost of serving**  
22 **PSNH's energy requirement.**

23 A. During 2012, 38% of PSNH's energy requirements were met with coal, wood, hydro, and  
24 nuclear resources. Newington is capable of operating on either residual fuel oil or natural  
25 gas. Because of the fuel diversity of PSNH's supply portfolio, PSNH is largely insulated  
26 from volatility in the natural gas market. During periods of high and volatile natural gas  
27 prices PSNH's resource mix provides price stability, and during periods of low natural gas  
28 prices ES load can be served through low priced market purchases while PSNH's resources  
29 provide insurance against price increases.

1 **IV. CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS**

2 **Q. Please describe the cost impact to PSNH’s customers associated with the Forward**  
3 **Capacity Market during 2012.**

4 A. Attachment FBW-5 summarizes PSNH’s monthly capacity activity. Approximately 87%  
5 of PSNH’s capacity need was met with generation resources (including PSNH-owned  
6 assets, non-utility IPPs, the Vermont Yankee PPA, and the Hydro-Quebec Interconnection  
7 Capacity Credits). The remaining 13% was procured via ISO-NE at a total net cost of \$6.7  
8 million.

9 **Q. Please summarize the ISO-NE capacity market rules that were in effect during 2012.**

10 A. The Forward Capacity Market (FCM) Settlement Agreement was approved by the Federal  
11 Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on June 16, 2006. The FCM Settlement  
12 Agreement implemented Forward Capacity Auctions (FCA) during which capacity  
13 resources offer MWs into ISO-NE administered auctions to “procure” the lowest cost  
14 resources necessary to meet the ISO-NE Installed Capacity Requirement and to establish  
15 the market value of capacity. The capacity prices established for 2012 were \$3.60/kW-  
16 month for January 1 to May 31, and \$2.95/kW-month for June 1 to December 31.  
17 Additional components of the FCM which occur after the FCAs, including Reconfiguration  
18 Auctions and monthly Peak Energy Rent adjustments, result in adjustments to Capacity  
19 Supply Obligations, the overall rate paid to capacity, and the rate paid by load for capacity.  
20 Resources are paid for providing capacity, and the total payments for capacity resources in  
21 each month are charged to ISO-NE load serving entities based on their relative share of the  
22 prior year’s peak demand.

23 **Q. Please summarize the supply resources that were used to meet PSNH’s capacity**  
24 **requirements.**

25 A. During 2012, a total of 392,421 MW-months of capacity qualified for credits in the ISO-  
26 NE capacity market (this equates to a monthly average of 32,702 MWs). PSNH was  
27 allocated 4.08% (15,997 MW-months) of this capacity obligation. PSNH’s supply  
28 resources qualified for 13,944 MW-months of capacity; comprised of owned generation  
29 (12,122 MW-months), non-utility IPPs (543 MW-months, including Lempster), the  
30 Vermont Yankee purchase agreement (56 MW-months), and Hydro-Quebec

1 Interconnection Capacity Credits (1,224 MW-months). For 2012, PSNH had a net capacity  
2 obligation of 2,053 MW-months. Attachment FBW-5 provides additional details.

3 **Q. Can you estimate the ES customers' capacity credit associated with PSNH's owned**  
4 **generation resources during 2012?**

5 A. Yes. As noted above, for 2012, PSNH's owned resources provided 12,122 MW-months of  
6 capacity to ISO-NE. This created \$38.2 million in revenue credited to the Energy Service  
7 rate.

8 **V. FINANCIAL TRANSMISSION RIGHTS**

9 **Q. What is a Financial Transmission Right (FTR)?**

10 A. An FTR is a financial instrument available to participants seeking to manage congestion  
11 cost risk or those wishing to speculate on the difference in congestion costs between two  
12 locations. These instruments have been available since the introduction of the ISO-NE  
13 Standard Market Design. All FTRs are defined by a MW amount, a source location, and a  
14 sink location (e.g. a participant may own 100 MW of FTRs that are sourced at the  
15 Merrimack node and sink at the New Hampshire load zone). For each MW of FTR, the  
16 owner will receive a credit or a charge from ISO-NE equal to the difference in the  
17 congestion component of the hourly LMP between the sink and the source. If the sink  
18 location congestion price exceeds the source location price, the FTR will have a positive  
19 value, i.e. - a credit to that participant's ISO-NE settlement in that hour. Similarly, if the  
20 sink location price is less than the source location price, the owner will be charged the  
21 difference.

22 **Q. Please summarize PSNH's participation in the ISO-NE FTR auction process.**

23 A. PSNH participated in these auctions as a method of hedging the congestion price  
24 differential between the major fossil stations (Merrimack, Schiller, and Newington) and the  
25 New Hampshire load zone for periods and in quantities according to forecasted unit  
26 operation. PSNH also procured FTRs to hedge the differential between the source location  
27 of bilateral purchases (e.g. the Massachusetts Hub) and the New Hampshire load zone.  
28 PSNH's generation resources and bilateral purchases provide an effective hedge against the  
29 energy component of the zonal LMP, but they do not guard against a congestion  
30 component differential. Therefore, even in an hour in which PSNH had sufficient

1 resources to serve its energy requirement, it would be exposed to potential congestion  
2 charges. The purpose of acquiring FTRs is to convert the risk associated with a variable,  
3 unknown expense (i.e. the hour-by-hour difference in the applicable LMP congestion  
4 component), to a fixed, known expense (i.e. the cost of the FTR); however, not at any cost.  
5 The prices bid to acquire FTRs are evaluated against potential congestion cost exposure to  
6 achieve a balance between risk coverage and minimizing costs for ES customers. During  
7 2012, PSNH procured via auction 1,407 GWh of FTRs at a net cost of \$27,264. Settlement  
8 of the FTRs resulted in elimination of \$80,753 of congestion charges. Thus, managing a  
9 portion of PSNH's congestion cost risk with FTRs resulted in an overall decrease in  
10 Energy Service expense of \$53,489.

11 **Q. Will PSNH continue to participate in the FTR auction process in order to hedge**  
12 **against unpredictable congestion costs?**

13 A. Yes. FTRs serve as an insurance policy against unanticipated congestion costs. PSNH  
14 procures FTRs primarily to provide cost certainty and thus reduce risk, rather than to  
15 achieve savings. If PSNH did not purchase FTRs and there was a problem on the system  
16 that resulted in congestion, the cost could be several times the cost of the FTR. Therefore,  
17 it makes sense to continue to purchase FTRs when able to do so at reasonable cost to  
18 manage the exposure to congestion costs.

19 **Q. Does that complete your testimony?**

20 A. Yes it does.