

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

October 25, 2017 - 10:03 a.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

8 NOV '17 PM 3:07

RE: DE 17-151
EVERSOURCE ENERGY:
Petition for Adjustment to
Stranded Cost Recovery Charge.
(Prehearing conference)

PRESENT: Chairman Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding
Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey
Commissioner Michael S. Giaimo

Sandy Deno, Clerk

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Public Service Company of
New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy:
Matthew J. Fossum, Esq.

Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:
Brian D. Buckley, Esq.
James Brennan, Finance Director
Office of Consumer Advocate

Reptg. PUC Staff:
Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.
Rich Chagnon, Electric Division

Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

**CERTIFIED
ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT**

I N D E X**PAGE NO.****STATEMENTS OF PRELIMINARY POSITION BY:**

Mr. Fossum	4
Mr. Buckley	5
Ms. Amidon	6

P R O C E E D I N G

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We're here this morning in Docket 17-151, which is Eversource's Stranded Cost Recovery Charge docket. We have a prehearing conference scheduled for this morning.

I don't think there's anything else we need to do before we take appearances.

MR. FOSSUM: Good morning, Commissioners. Matthew Fossum, here for Public Service Company of New Hampshire doing business as Eversource Energy.

MR. BUCKLEY: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners Bailey and Giaimo. My name is Brian D. Buckley. I'm a staff attorney with the Office of the Consumer Advocate. To my left is Mr. James Brennan, Director of Finance of the Office of the Consumer Advocate. And we're here today representing the interests of residential ratepayers.

MS. AMIDON: Good morning. Suzanne Amidon, for Commission Staff. And with me is Rich Chagnon, who is an Analyst in the Electric Division.

1 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Is
2 there anything in the way of preliminary
3 matters we need to deal with before we hear the
4 parties' positions?

5 MR. FOSSUM: None that I'm aware of.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Fossum, why
7 don't you start us off.

8 MR. FOSSUM: Thank you. I have a
9 very extensive multipage statement I'd like to
10 read into the record -- actually, I'm kidding
11 entirely.

12 This, when the Commission issued
13 Order -- oh, drat, I knew I would forget the
14 number -- in Docket 17-113, the Commission had
15 issued an order recently, whose number escapes
16 me at the moment, and I apologize for that,
17 requiring the Company to make its customary
18 Energy Service and Stranded Cost filing for
19 effect January 1st of 2018. And, so, on
20 October 2nd, that is what we have done.

21 It's the Company's position that we
22 have calculated and provided a Stranded Cost
23 Recovery Charge rate consistent with what we
24 have done in the past, and that it is a just

1 and reasonable rate and should be approved.

2 I would be remiss if I didn't note
3 that there are a number of other moving parts
4 that may affect this rate. Divestiture is
5 impending. And it's not quite clear what may
6 come out of the divestiture docket
7 specifically, or out of docket 17-113, relative
8 to PSNH's transition to competitively procured
9 default service. And, so, we are aware of
10 that, we are mindful of that. But, unless and
11 until we hear something definitive otherwise,
12 we would ask that the rate we have filed in
13 this case be reviewed and approved, and be
14 allowed to go into effect on January 1st.

15 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Buckley.

16 MR. BUCKLEY: The OCA is still
17 evaluating the issues presented in the instant
18 Petition, particularly in light of the upcoming
19 divestiture. That said, we are optimistic
20 about the ability of the parties to reach an
21 expedient and amicable resolution of those
22 issues.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Amidon.

1 MS. AMIDON: Thank you. The order
2 that Mr. Fossum was referring to was Order
3 Number 26,056 that the Commission issued on
4 September 21st, in Docket 17-113. And, in
5 fact, he includes that in his cover letter to
6 his Petition, just to point that out to you.

7 Staff will review the proposed SCRC
8 in its customary manner. We also understand
9 and that we are in discussions with the Company
10 and with the OCA on whether -- on the approach
11 to take for procurement of energy service
12 following divestiture and the timing of that.
13 We trust that the Company will come up with a
14 proposal shortly that will allow us to consider
15 those issues.

16 But, in the meantime, we intend to
17 conduct an investigation in this docket as we
18 normally do, in order to assure that there is a
19 Stranded Cost rate in effect for January 1.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I'll note that
22 you have a technical session scheduled
23 following this and following the prehearing
24 conference that's scheduled to start in 20

1 minutes in Docket 17-150.

2 Is there anything else we can do for
3 you before we adjourn this prehearing
4 conference?

5 *[No verbal response.]*

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. We
7 are adjourned.

8 ***(Whereupon the prehearing***
9 ***conference was adjourned at***
10 ***10:07 a.m., and a technical***
11 ***session was held thereafter.)***