

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 09-179

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 24, 2009, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a petition for adjustment to its Stranded Cost Recovery Charge (SCRC) for effect with service rendered on and after January 1, 2010. In support of its petition, PSNH filed the testimony of Robert A. Baumann with related exhibits and attachments.

The SCRC recovery mechanism was established pursuant to the Agreement to Settle PSNH Restructuring in Docket No. DE 99-099 (Restructuring Agreement). PSNH states that the Restructuring Agreement defined PSNH's stranded costs and categorized them into three different parts—Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3. The SCRC recovers costs for all three Parts. The Restructuring Agreement capped the SCRC at an overall average rate of 3.40 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). PSNH states that its Part 3 costs were fully recovered in June 2006. The Restructuring Agreement states that once Part 3 costs are fully recovered, the SCRC will be set on a forecasted basis every six months and will include any over- or under-recoveries of Part 1 and Part 2 stranded costs from the previous period. Part 1 is composed of the Rate Reduction Bond Charge, which is calculated to recover the principal, net interest, and fees related to Rate Reduction Bonds. Part 2 costs are “ongoing” stranded costs consisting primarily of the over-market value of energy purchased from independent power producers (IPPs) and the amortization of payments previously made for IPP buy-downs and buy-outs as approved by the Commission.

Pursuant to *Public Service Co. of N.H.*, Order No. 24,987 (July 23, 2009), PSNH is currently billing an average SCRC rate of \$0.0114 per kWh for the five-month period from August 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. Based on the data available at the time of the filing of the instant petition, PSNH provided its preliminary calculation of an average SCRC rate of \$0.0102 per kWh for service rendered on and after January 1, 2010. PSNH stated that it is not requesting approval of a specific rate at this time and that it will update its estimates with more recent data prior to the hearing on its petition. PSNH attributed the decrease in the estimated 2010 SCRC primarily to lower above-market IPP costs resulting from higher forecasted market IPP costs.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether PSNH's assumptions and estimates of costs and revenues are reasonable and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable as required by RSA 378:5 and 378:8. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, PSNH, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow PSNH to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, PSNH shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 8, 2009, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before October 19, 2009; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to PSNH and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 16, 2009, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 19, 2009.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fifth day of October, 2009.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.