

**BEFORE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DG 08-009**

**NATIONAL GRID NH**

**Request for Temporary and Permanent Rate Increases**

**Office of Consumer Advocate's Motion for Extension of Procedural Schedule**

1. On April 21, 2008 the Public Utilities Commission approved the procedural schedule in this docket. *See* Secretarial Letter from Debra A. Howland to parties, April 21, 2008. The schedule required the final audit report on August 1, 2008, and requires a technical session on September 4, and the filing of testimony by Staff and Intervenors on September 12, 2008. All subsequent dates in the present procedural schedule depend upon the timely fulfillment of these deadlines.
2. The final audit report was not issued on August 1. To date, the audit has yet to be finalized.
3. Due to the delays in the audit, the parties informally agreed to proceed with the third set of data requests as scheduled. The parties also informally agreed to revise the procedural schedule to include the addition of an opportunity for data requests based only upon the final audit (after it is completed), and to extend all remaining deadlines.
4. Although several attempts have been made to formally memorialize these agreements and a revised procedural schedule (*i.e.*, present the Commission with a proposed revised schedule for approval), the procedural schedule remains unchanged and two critical deadlines approach: September 4, when a technical session is scheduled; and September 12, when the testimony of Staff and Intervenors is due.
5. Puc 202.04 (a) requires a party to request an extension of a deadline "before the expiration of the period originally prescribed."
6. The PUC shall grant a request for an extension of time if "(1) The party making the request has demonstrated that circumstances would cause undue hardship or inconvenience unless the request were granted; and (2) The extension would not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party." Puc 202.04 (c).
7. The OCA will experience undue hardship and inconvenience if the approaching deadlines are not extended. The OCA will be required to expend its limited time and resources including the costly services of its consultant, preparing for a technical session and finalizing its testimony, when issues related to the audit remain unresolved. Unlike Staff, the OCA is not privy to the audit process and only learns of the issues identified during this process when the final audit report is available for

public consumption. Without the opportunity to review and question the Company (and, possibly Staff) about the final audit, the OCA is unable to finalize its position in this case, which it is expected to deliver in the form of its pre-filed testimony, currently due next week. If the OCA were required to file its testimony without this opportunity, it may have to seek permission to file supplemental testimony. Such a course of action is not only inefficient, but will result in an undue hardship and inconvenience to the OCA. Moreover, the additional process required for the Commission to consider and for the OCA, if permitted, to follow through with supplemental testimony may result in further delays in the procedural schedule.

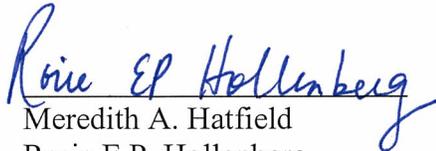
8. The OCA specifically proposes the following revised procedural schedule:

Company meeting with audit staff on draft audit report	September 17, 2008
Final Audit Report	September 29, 2008
Technical Session	October 2 and 3, 2008
Fourth Set of Data Requests to Company	October 7, 2008
Company's response to 4th Set of DR's	October 17, 2008
Staff and Intervenor Testimony	October 31, 2008
Data Requests to Staff and Intervenors	November 14, 2008
Settlement Conference	November 20, 2008
Responses from Staff and Intervenors	December 5, 2008
Tech Session/Settlement Conference	December 10, 2008
Company Rebuttal Testimony	December 15, 2008
Data Requests to Company on Rebuttal Testimony	December 22, 2008
Company responses to Data Requests on Rebuttal Testimony	January 8, 2009
Settlement Conference	January 14 and 15, 2009
File Settlement	January 20, 2009
Hearing	January 27-29, 2009
Briefs	February 13, 2009

9. These changes will not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party. All of the proposed dates occur within the 12-month statutory window in which the Commission's suspension remains in effect. *See* RSA 378:6, I (a).
10. Prior to the filing of this motion, the OCA made a good faith attempt to gain the consent of the other parties for the extension. *See* Puc 202.04(b). The following parties indicated consent: Staff, National Grid NH and Pamela Locke consent to the relief requested in the OCA's motion. National Grid NH, however, indicated a need to check with its witnesses as to their availability for the new proposed hearing dates.

Therefore, the OCA respectfully requests that the Commission extend and revise the procedural schedule as requested herein.

Respectfully submitted,

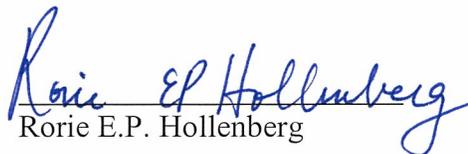


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing motion was forwarded this day to the parties to DG 08-009 by electronic mail.

September 3, 2008



Rorie E.P. Hollenberg