THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DE 08-072

ORDER OF NOTICE

On May 15, 2008, Granite State Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid) submitted its fiscal year 2008 (April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008) annual reliability enhancement and vegetation management plan results and reconciliation filing pursuant to the terms of the National Grid/KeySpan merger settlement agreement approved by the Commission in Docket No. DG 06-107. *See* Order No. 24,777 (July 12, 2007).

National Grid stated that, as required by the merger settlement agreement, the report contained the following information: 1) a report on actual spending on operation and maintenance activities and capital projects for fiscal year 2008, including an explanation of differences from the fiscal year 2008 budget; 2) a request for a capital investment allowance of \$165,840 to be included in distribution rates effective for usage on and after July 1, 2008; and 3) reliability performance results for calendar year 2007.

In the attachments supporting the filing, National Grid calculated that the requested \$165,840 increase to its annual revenue requirement represents a 0.76% increase to distribution rates. On an overall bill basis, the monthly increase to a residential customer would be \$0.14 for a residential customer using 500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month, or \$0.20 for a residential customer using 673 kWh per month (National Grid's average residential customer usage), in both cases representing an approximate 0.2% increase.

The filing raises, <u>inter alia</u>, issues related to whether National Grid's filing conforms to the requirements of the merger settlement agreement, whether National Grid has

appropriately accounted for the costs of its reliability enhancement and vegetation management programs, 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 hearing, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on June 19, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, National Grid shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than May 28, 2008, 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 June 19, 2008; 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 National Grid and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before June 16, 2008, 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 June 19, 2008.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-

second day of May, 2008.

Debra A. Howland

Executive Director & Secretary

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.

