

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: June 6, 2008

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC


FROM: Steven E. Mullen
Assistant Director, Electric Division

SUBJECT: DE 08-081, Public Service Company of New Hampshire – Proposed Changes in Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) with Competitive Suppliers

TO: Commissioners
Debra A. Howland, Executive Director & Secretary

On May 17, 2008, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a letter requesting approval for proposed changes to Appendix B of the “Consensus Plan for the Transmission of Electric Data in New Hampshire’s Retail Market” dated April 2, 1998 and approved by the Commission in Order No. 22,919 (May 4, 1998). Specifically, PSNH is seeking to modify the completion status codes that are used by the distribution companies to communicate the status of each detail record sent to the distribution company by a competitive power supplier. PSNH further explained that distribution companies determine whether to accept or reject the detail record sent to them and, if rejected, provide the reasons for the rejection, via the completion status codes, to the competitive power supplier. PSNH stated that it has received several requests from competitive power suppliers – many of whom do business in several states – to modify the existing completion status codes used by PSNH to make them consistent with the codes used in other Northeast states, thereby resulting in greater efficiency.

PSNH is also proposing to add a new service identifier in the Payment Order / Remittance Advice Transaction set. According to PSNH, this service identifier will, for those customers having multiple locations, further identify the specific customer location for which a payment is applied. In addition, PSNH will use the service identifier to transmit customer payment and adjustment details to competitive suppliers that receive billing services from PSNH. This will provide those suppliers with the ability to track payments and adjustment information for each customer location. PSNH said the new service identifier was requested by competitive power suppliers during PSNH’s review of its new billing system with the competitive suppliers in 2007.

PSNH stated that its new billing system is scheduled to be implemented in July 2008 and has incorporated the revised completion status codes and new service identifier

into that billing system. Finally, PSNH noted that it contacted Unitil and National Grid and both companies concurred with PSNH's request.

I discussed this request with PSNH personnel and was informed that PSNH held seminars with all the registered competitive power suppliers to review its new billing system and the requested changes to its EDI transaction codes. Similar seminars were held with competitive suppliers in Connecticut and Massachusetts as all of the Northeast Utilities distribution companies will be using the same billing system. The changes now requested by PSNH would make PSNH's EDI transaction codes the same as those used in Massachusetts and Connecticut. I was informed that the competitive suppliers were pleased that EDI transactions would be uniform in the three states. PSNH also informed me that it has been testing the EDI transaction codes with a competitive supplier and that testing is nearing a successful completion.

In summary, Staff recommends that the Commission approve PSNH's requested modifications to the EDI codes as the changes will allow for continued efficient electronic communication between NH electric distribution companies and competitive power suppliers. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further.

cc: Tom Frantz
Suzanne Amidon