

1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
3

4 October 26, 2009 - 10:02 a.m.
5 Concord, New Hampshire
6

7 RE: DE 09-186
8 PUBLIC SERVICE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:
9 Proposed Renewable Default Energy
10 Service Rate. (Prehearing conference)

11 PRESENT: F. Anne Ross, Esq.
12 (Presiding as Hearings Examiner)

13 Sandy Deno, Clerk
14

15 APPEARANCES: Reptg. Public Service of New Hampshire:
16 Gerald M. Eaton, Esq.
17 Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:
18 Meredith Hatfield, Esq., Consumer Advocate
19 Kenneth E. Traum, Asst. Consumer Advocate
20 Stephen Eckberg
21 Office of Consumer Advocate
22 Reptg. PUC Staff:
23 Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.
24 Thomas C. Frantz, Director - Electric Div.
Al-Azad Iqbal, Electric Division

23 Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52
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STATEMENTS OF PRELIMINARY POSITION BY:

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Mr. Eaton

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Ms. Hatfield

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Ms. Amidon

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1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 MS. ROSS: Good morning. I'm Anne Ross.
3 I'm going to be serving as Hearings Examiner this morning
4 and I'll be conducting the prehearing conference and
5 taking any matters that you bring before me back to the
6 Commission in the form of a report and recommendation, and
7 the ultimate decision on any issues will be made by the
8 Commissioners.

9 I'd like to open the prehearing
10 conference this morning in docket DE 09-186. On
11 September 30, 2009, Public Service Company of New
12 Hampshire filed a request for approval of a new Renewable
13 Default Service Rate Option for its customers pursuant to
14 House Bill 395 of the 2009 New Hampshire Laws 236,
15 codified as RSA 374-F:3, V(f). This provision requires
16 New Hampshire electric Utilities to offer one or more
17 renewable energy source options to its customers.

18 With the petition, PSNH filed a proposed
19 tariff and the supporting testimony and related
20 attachments of Rhonda Bisson, Senior Analyst, in the Rate
21 and Regulatory Services Department of PSNH, and Richard C.
22 Labrecque, Supplemental Energy Services Manager for PSNH.

23 The Commission issued an order
24 suspending the tariff and setting a prehearing conference

{DE 09-186} [Prehearing conference] {10-26-09}

1 for this morning. I'd like to begin by taking
2 appearances.

3 MR. EATON: Good morning. My name is
4 Gerald M. Eaton for Public Service Company of New
5 Hampshire.

6 MS. HATFIELD: Good morning. Meredith
7 Hatfield, from the Office of Consumer Advocate, on behalf
8 of residential ratepayers. And, with me are Ken Traum and
9 Steve Eckberg.

10 MS. AMIDON: Good morning. Suzanne
11 Amidon, for Commission Staff, and to my left is Tom
12 Frantz, who is the Director of the Electric Division, and
13 to his left is Al-Azad Iqbal, who is a Utility Analyst for
14 the Electric Division.

15 MS. ROSS: Thank you. I note that we
16 have a Petition to Intervene by Granite State Electric.
17 Is there anyone here?

18 (No verbal response)

19 MS. ROSS: Have we heard anything?

20 (No verbal response)

21 MS. ROSS: Are there any objections to
22 that Petition to Intervene?

23 MR. EATON: No objection.

24 MS. ROSS: Okay. I think the next item

1 would be to get a brief statement of position from the
2 parties. If you'd like to begin.

3 MR. EATON: Thank you, Madam Hearing
4 Examiner. We filed this rate offering in compliance with
5 the laws that you described in your opening statement.
6 The previous law had an optional renewable energy offering
7 for transition service, and PSNH was working on perhaps
8 filing an optional rate when the statute was passed. So,
9 it was a group of people at PSNH that came up with the
10 proposal that is before you today. PSNH has chosen to
11 offer a rate directly to its Energy Service customers.
12 And, PSNH will purchase renewable energy certificates to
13 cover the loads of the customers that sign up under this
14 rate. Primarily, it will be Class I and Class II New
15 Hampshire renewable energy certificates that will match
16 the load that is delivered under this rate.

17 There are lots of other details to this,
18 which we will go over with the parties in the tech session
19 that will file -- that will follow. We hope to implement
20 this March 1st of 2010, and that would probably mean an
21 order from the Commission in early January.

22 MS. ROSS: Thank you.

23 MS. HATFIELD: Thank you. The OCA is
24 still reviewing PSNH's proposal. We are pleased that the

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1 law is now in effect and that consumers will soon have a
2 green Energy Service option. Some question areas that we
3 will be exploring with the Company and with Staff relate
4 largely to the costs of the way that PSNH is proposing to
5 implement the law, because PSNH is proposing to manage the
6 green option itself, rather than use a third party. And,
7 the OCA wants to fully understand the costs of the
8 approach that PSNH is proposing versus the alternative of
9 using what we understand exists is a third party option
10 that some of our utilities use in their sister companies
11 in other New England states. So, that will be one area
12 that we'll be exploring. Thank you.

13 MS. ROSS: Thank you.

14 MS. AMIDON: Thank you. Staff is
15 generally supportive of the filing. And, this is the
16 first filing we received under the statute, so we'll be
17 investigating it closely. I think one of the issues that
18 we have identified is the reconciliation mechanism. But
19 these are matters which we can discuss further with the
20 Company in technical session and discovery.

21 MS. ROSS: Thank you. Are there any
22 other matters as a preliminary matter that need to be
23 dealt with in this prehearing conference? No motions or
24 procedural issues?

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1 (No verbal response)

2 MS. ROSS: In that case, I might have
3 just made the record for the shortest prehearing
4 conference on record, I would like to close the prehearing
5 conference and ask the parties to meet in a technical
6 session and to come up with a proposed procedural
7 schedule. And, if you want to take that occasion to begin
8 your discovery on the filing, it would also be a good use
9 of time. Thank you.

10 (Whereupon the prehearing conference
11 ended at 10:09 a.m. and the Parties and
12 Staff convened a technical session
13 thereafter.)

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