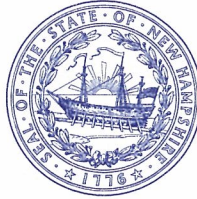


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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August 30, 2012

Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director and Secretary  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-7319



**RE: DE 11-250 PSNH – Investigation of Scrubber Costs**

NHPUC AUG30'12 PM 3:51

Dear Ms. Howland:

The existing procedural schedule sets a deadline for discovery by the non-utility parties of August 31, 2012. Yesterday, the Commission's Audit Staff publically released its Final Report. A final report from the Commission's consultant, Jacobs Consultancy, remains pending. Based upon experience, the OCA expects the Commission to consider the findings and recommendations contained within these reports in making its determinations in this proceeding. Consequently, these circumstances create an undue hardship on or inconvenience to the OCA, which needs additional time to review these reports and, if necessary, propound data requests on the reports' content. Puc 202.04 (c)(1).

Pursuant to Puc 202.04, the OCA hereby requests an extension of the deadline for discovery until 15 days following the public release of the final Jacobs report. Puc 202.04(a). The deadline for intervenor testimony is October 31, 2012, which is nearly one month following PSNH's last responses to discovery (i.e., responses to tech session data requests on October 5). Consequently, there is some room in the current schedule – if the other events before the testimony deadline are also adjusted – to accommodate the OCA's requested extension without delaying the proceeding or adversely affecting the rights of the parties. Puc 202.04 (c)(2). Further, given the status of TransCanada's pending motion to compel, the procedural schedule may require extension at some point in the near future regardless of the OCA's requested extension.

Pursuant to Puc 202.04 (b), the OCA contacted the parties to seek their consent for this extension. CLF, TransCanada and Sierra Club consent to an extension of the discovery deadline

so long as the extension permits discovery, if necessary, in response to the Commission's determination on the pending TransCanada motion to compel. In light of the fact that the Commission has already put parties on notice that it "will make any necessary changes to the procedural schedule at a future date" relating to matters that are the subject of Order No. 25,398, PSNH consents to an extension of the discovery deadline at this time so long as this extension only relates to discovery on matters contained in the Commission's final audit report and the final Jacobs report. Staff consents to an extension as requested by the OCA and takes no position on whether the extension should (or should not) permit discovery on issues related to TransCanada's motion to compel. No other parties have responded as of the time of filing.

Respectfully,



Rorie E.P. Hollenberg  
Assistant Consumer Advocate

cc: Service List via electronic mail

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