

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

December 28, 2011 - 10:06 a.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

NHPUC JAN17'12 PM12:24

RE: DE 11-255
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:
Renewable Default Energy Service Rate.
(Prehearing conference)

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas B. Getz, Presiding
Commissioner Amy L. Ignatius
Commissioner Clifton C. Below

Jody Carmody, Clerk

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Public Service Co. of New Hampshire:
Gerald M. Eaton, Esq.

Reptg. PUC Staff:
Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.

Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

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1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Good morning,
3 everyone. We'll open the prehearing conference in Docket
4 DE 11-255. On November 29, 2011, Public Service Company
5 of New Hampshire filed a petition to revise its Renewable
6 Energy Service Rate for service rendered on or after
7 January 1, 2012. An order suspending the tariff and
8 scheduling the prehearing conference for this morning was
9 issued on December 15th.

10 So, can we take appearances please.

11 MR. EATON: For Public Service Company
12 of New Hampshire, my name is Gerald M. Eaton. Good
13 morning.

14 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Good morning.

15 MS. AMIDON: Good morning. Suzanne
16 Amidon, for Commission Staff. And, with me today is
17 Al-Azad Iqbal, who is an Analyst with the Electric
18 Division.

19 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Good morning. So,
20 appears to be no petitions to intervene. I guess we do
21 have a letter of participation from the Office of Consumer
22 Advocate. And, I'll note for the record that the
23 affidavit of publication has been filed.

24 And, so, begin with Mr. Eaton, a

{DE 11-255} [Prehearing conference] {12-28-11}

1 statement of position.

2 MR. EATON: I would like to begin by
3 saying that there was a filing on December 23rd of an
4 affidavit from the Union Leader, and they attached the
5 actual advertisement for Pennichuck Water Works. We have
6 a copy of the -- we have a copy of the actual ad back in
7 our offices and we will file a substitute affidavit by the
8 end of the day. And, so, the lack of participation isn't
9 because the notice wasn't published.

10 The Company has filed revisions to our
11 Renewable Energy Service Rate. It involves a rather
12 sizeable increase, which we're willing to discuss with the
13 Staff and the Office of Consumer Advocate about what can
14 be done. Attorney Amidon pointed out a provision at RSA
15 374-F:3, V(f)(8), which allows the Company to substitute
16 offering the rate by making alternative compliance
17 payments to the fund, the Renewable Energy Fund. And,
18 we'll explore that with the parties, given that it is
19 quite a sizeable increase.

20 There's an offset between an
21 overcollection and undercollection, which PSNH has
22 proposed to carry forward until next year. It's rather
23 small an amount.

24 But we will have a meeting with the

1 Staff next week and discuss these matters, again, with
2 other utilities. It's kind of a generic meeting. And,
3 then, we hope to have a hearing in the near future.

4 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Ms. Amidon.

5 MS. AMIDON: Well, I think Mr. Eaton
6 stole some of my thunder. But, having said that, the
7 Staff has organized, and the OCA is aware of the meeting
8 that we scheduled for next Friday. It will be a technical
9 session, and we'll propose that in the procedural schedule
10 following the prehearing conference today. At that time,
11 we hope to hear from Unitil, National Grid, and PSNH.
12 And, the intent is to review a couple of concerns that
13 Staff has overall regarding the Renewable Service Option.
14 The first of which is the low participation, and the
15 second of which is the administrative costs and the
16 marketing costs, which continue to have to be spent in
17 order to get participation of any level at all.

18 We will consider this provision that Mr.
19 Eaton referred to, which allows that, if the Renewable
20 Default Service is not available at a reasonable cost,
21 that a utility may, as approved by the Commission, make
22 payments to the Renewable Energy Fund on behalf of
23 customers who select the Renewable Energy Service Option.
24 So, that will be one of the subjects that we explore next

1 week with the utilities.

2 Insofar as this proceeding goes, we have
3 proposed and have on hold a hearing date for January 26, I
4 believe, a Thursday. The Company has agreed to that, and
5 we will be making that schedule offer to the Commission
6 later today.

7 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Okay. With
8 that, then we will close the prehearing conference and
9 await a recommendation that comes out of the technical
10 session. Thank you, everyone.

11 (Whereupon the prehearing conference
12 ended at 10:12 a.m., and thereafter the
13 parties and Staff commenced a technical
14 session.)
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