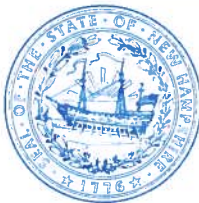


CHAIRMAN
Amy L. Ignatius

COMMISSIONERS
Michael D. Harrington
Robert R. Scott

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Debra A. Howland

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX (603) 271-3878

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

September 24, 2013

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director
N.H. Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

NHPUC 24SEP'13PM12:25

Re: Docket No. IR 13-244
Investigation into Payment Hierarchy between Competitive Energy Suppliers and
Electric and Natural Gas Distribution Utilities
Report of Technical Session and Proposed Procedural Schedule

Dear Ms. Howland:

On September 20, 2013, the Commission held a prehearing conference in the above-captioned matter. Present were Staff, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), and the State's electric and natural gas distribution utilities which, in its order of notice, the Commission made mandatory parties to this proceeding, i.e., Public Service Company of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Northern Utilities, Inc., Unitil Energy Systems, Inc., Granite State Electric Company, and EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc.

Also present were the following parties that requested intervenor status, which motions the Commission granted: North American Power and Gas, LLC, Electricity N.H., LLC d/b/a E.N.H. Power, the Retail Energy Supply Association, and PNE Energy Supply, LLC.

The parties and Staff met in a technical session following the prehearing conference and developed the following proposed procedural schedule for the Commission's consideration and approval:

Responses to Tech Session Data Requests	September 25, 2013
Competitive Supplier Testimony/Proposals	October 11, 2013
Data Requests on Competitive Supplier	
Testimony/Proposals	October 25, 2013
Responses to Data Requests	November 8, 2013
Tech Session/Settlement Conference	November 13, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Utility/OCA testimony	November 22, 2013
Data Requests on Utility/OCA Testimony	December 6, 2013
Responses to Data Requests	December 20, 2013
Tech Session/Settlement Conference	January 15, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
Staff Report or Settlement Agreement	January 29, 2014
Merits Hearing	February 6, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

Staff respectfully requests that the Commission approve the proposed procedural schedule.

At the prehearing conference, Staff said that the docket concerned both payment hierarchy between distribution utility and competitive supplier, and communication with and clarity for customers who take competitive supply and receive collection calls from both the distribution utility and the competitive supplier. At the technical session, North American Power and Gas, LLC, and the Retail Energy Supply Association said that they believed the payment hierarchy issue could be resolved through settlement discussions outside of the procedural schedule. The parties will inform the Commission if settlement occurs and request appropriate revisions to the procedural schedule.

Finally, Staff notes that the Commission heard positions of the parties at the prehearing conference regarding whether the gas distribution utilities should be mandatory parties to this proceeding, but did not render a decision regarding the matter at that time.

I certify that a copy of this letter will be served electronically on the service list at the time that it is filed with the Commission.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.
Staff Attorney

cc: Service List