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The Northeast Utilities System

Stephen R. Hall

Rate & Regulatory Services Manage

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April 29, 2011

Debra A. Howland **Executive Director and Secretary** State of New Hampshire **Public Utilities Commission** 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429

Re: Step Increase for Changes in Net Plant in Service for the Period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011

Dear Ms. Howland:

Enclosed for filing with the Commission are an original and six copies of the technical statement and attachments of Robert A. Baumann describing the changes to PSNH's Net Plant in Service from March 31, 2010 to March 31, 2011.

The Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission in Docket No. DE 09-035 (PSNH Distribution Rate Case) provides for a series of projected increases to PSNH's permanent distribution rate level. Under the Settlement, PSNH is required to file financial documentation by April 30 of each year showing the actual changes to Net Distribution Utility Plant between April 1 of the prior year and March 31 of the current year. The projected rate increases are subject to downward revision to the extent that certain financial measurements are not met.

As shown in the enclosed technical statement and attachments, PSNH has calculated the July 1, 2011 step increase to be approximately \$4.4 million, a decrease from the projected step increase specified in the Settlement of \$9.3 million.

PSNH requests that the Commission open a docket to examine the information contained in this filing and issue an order approving PSNH's proposed \$4.4 million annual increase to its distribution rates effective for service rendered on and after July 1, 2011

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Hall

Rate & Regulatory Services Manager

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SRH:kd Enclosures

cc: Meredith A. Hatfield, OCA