

DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
KURT F. DEMMER

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1 **I. Introduction and Qualifications**

2 **Q. Please state your full name and business address.**

3 A. My name is Kurt F. Demmer and my business address is 9 Lowell Road, Salem, New
4 Hampshire.

5
6 **Q. Please state your job position and primary responsibilities.**

7 A. I am the Acting Director of Electrical Operations for National Grid USA and am
8 responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Company's¹ electricity distribution
9 business. My responsibilities regarding the Company's electric operations include: (1)
10 reliability performance, (2) oversight of operation and maintenance construction
11 activities, and (3) Regional Incident Command of Storm restoration. In the context of the
12 winter storms that occurred on February 24, 2010 (the Feb. 2010 Wind Storm) and March
13 7, 2011 (the Mar. 2011 Ice Storm), I served as Regional Incident Commander pursuant to
14 the Company's Electricity Emergency Plan ("EEP") during the Mar. 2011 Ice Storm.

15
16 **Q. Please describe your educational background and training.**

17 A. I graduated from Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts with a Bachelor
18 of Science degree in electrical engineering in 1987. In 2002, I received a Masters in
19 Electrical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts.
20 I am a registered professional engineer in the state of New Hampshire.

21

¹ This testimony makes reference to defined terms as defined in the testimony of Ms. Theresa Burns and as such they are not re-defined here.

1 **Q. Please describe your professional expertise.**

2 A. In June 1988, I joined Massachusetts Electric Company as an Operational Field Engineer.

3 In 1996, I became a Senior Engineer for Massachusetts Electric Company. In 2000, I

4 accepted a position as Area Supervisor for the Salem area of the Company and was

5 responsible for all distribution engineering and construction for the Company in the

6 Salem/Pelham area. In 2008, I became Manager of Electric Operations in New

7 Hampshire responsible for the operations construction and maintenance functions for the

8 electric distribution organization. In 2010, I became Acting Director of Electrical

9 Operations in New Hampshire. My continued areas of responsibility were to oversee the

10 construction, maintenance and operation of the electric distribution system.

11

12 **II. Purpose of Testimony**

13 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

14 A. The Company is seeking permission from the Commission for an adjustment to its Storm

15 Recovery Adjustment (“SRA”) Factor to fund its Storm Contingency Fund (“Storm

16 Fund”), which has a significant deficit balance as a result of three storms over the past

17 four years. The testimony of Ms. Burns addresses the Company’s proposal to adjust the

18 SRA Factor. My testimony discusses the events relating to two major storms – the Feb.

19 2010 Wind Storm and the Mar. 2011 Ice Storm – that resulted in the costs that, when

20 charged to the Storm Fund, contributed to a significant deficit balance as described in her

21 testimony. Specifically, my testimony addresses: (1) the impact of and the associated

22 restoration efforts with respect to the Feb. 2010 Wind Storm and Mar. 2011 Ice Storm,

23 and (2) how these two weather events qualify as Major Storms as defined by the

1 Company's Storm Fund.

2
3 **Q. How is your testimony organized?**

4 A. The remainder of my testimony is organized as follows: The remainder of my
5 testimony consists of two sections. First, I will describe the impact of and the
6 Company's response to the Feb. 2010 Wind Storm and Mar. 2011 Ice Storm. Following
7 that, I will provide the basis for the Company's conclusion that these two weather events
8 qualified as Major Storms pursuant to the definition in the Company's Storm Fund.

9
10 **III. Description of February 2010 and March 2011 Major Storms**

11 **Q. Please describe the Feb. 2010 Wind Storm.**

12 A. The Feb. 2010 Wind Storm resulted in the most severe outage event the Company
13 experienced that year, and included restoration challenges that rivaled the worst storms
14 affecting the Company's service area. Despite the damage and large number of customer
15 interruptions, the Company led a successful storm restoration effort, which succeeded in
16 restoring service to its New Hampshire customers by March 1, 2010. Overnight
17 (Thursday, February 25 into Friday, February 26), hurricane force winds interrupted
18 service to over 11,000 of the Company's customers. The winds, combined with torrential
19 rains and snow, toppled hundreds of trees, bringing down utility poles and power lines.
20 Although the outages were concentrated in the communities of Salem, Pelham, and
21 Lebanon, the storm impacted customers in 17 of the 21 communities served by the
22 Company.

1 In all, the Company experienced 219 events, with 11,319 customers interrupted during
2 the Feb. 2010 Wind Storm. In response to these outages, the Company provided 17
3 contractor tree service crews, 45 contractor line crews, 29 affiliate company line crews,
4 and 5 Company line crews in the field to restore power.

5
6 Additionally, the Company provided 6 Company Damage Assessment personnel, 20
7 Company personnel as Wires Down personnel, and 10 other personnel for support of all
8 restoration efforts. Ninety-one percent of the Company's customers affected were
9 restored by the morning of Monday, March 1, with the remaining 806 customers restored
10 by end of that day.

11
12 **Q. Please explain Schedule KFD-1 to your testimony.**

13 A. Schedule KFD-1 is the Company's report on the Feb. 2010 Wind Storm, which the
14 Company filed as part of its annual Storm Fund report on April 15, 2011. However, the
15 Company has revised page 3 of the report because, in the original report, the Company
16 inadvertently listed the line crews that responded as workers as opposed to crews.

17
18 **Q. Please describe the Mar. 2011 Ice Storm.**

19 A. The Mar. 2011 Ice Storm also resulted in a severe outage event for the Company,
20 resulting in more than 83 troubles and interrupting 5,787 customers.

21
22 Overnight Sunday, March 6, and into Monday, March 7, wet snow was predicted in the
23 Lebanon area. The Company pre-staged two overhead line crews for the event, one crew

1 for Lebanon and one crew for Charlestown. Shortly after 2 am, March 7, the Company
2 experienced outages in the Blueberry Hill area in Hanover. The Company called all
3 remaining internal Lebanon crews at approximately 2 am. In addition to the overhead
4 line crews, additional personnel were utilized to do a preliminary damage assessment.
5 The Company requested outside assistance at approximately 5 am.

6
7 During the first day of the Mar. 2011 Ice Storm, there were approximately 5,300
8 customers without service. The heavy rain had created icing in the higher elevation areas
9 in the Lebanon area such as Hardy Hill, Lebanon; Etna Road, Hanover; Methodist Hill
10 area in Plainfield; South Street, Canaan; and East Hill, Enfield. The icing created a
11 significant number of downed trees and accretion (the accumulation of ice) was observed
12 at over ½". There was minimal pole damage, however, pole top equipment damage was
13 prevalent including damage to crossarms and wires. Due to the severe icing and downed
14 trees, some of the Company's customers were without power from Monday, March 7
15 until Wednesday, March 9.

16
17 During the peak of the Company's response, the Company provided 49 contractor tree
18 service crews, 19 contractor line crews, 60 affiliate company line crews, and 7.5²
19 Company line crews in the field to restore power. Additionally, the Company provided 4
20 company Damage Assessment personnel, 60 Company personnel as Wires Down
21 appraisers, and 10 other personnel for support of all restoration efforts.

1 All but four of the Company's customers affected were restored by 6 pm Wednesday,
2 March 9. These remaining customers were restored by 8:45 pm that night.

3
4 Schedule KFD-2 is a description of the Mar. 2011 Ice Storm, presented in the format in
5 which the Company will present the storm in its annual Storm Fund Report.

6
7 **IV. Determination of a Major Storm Under the Storm Fund**

8 **Q. How does the Company's Storm Fund define a "Major Storm"?**

9 A. The Company's Storm Fund defines a "Major Storm" as a severe weather event or events
10 causing 30 concurrent troubles and 15% of customers interrupted, or 45 concurrent
11 troubles. Troubles are defined as interruption events that occur on either primary or
12 secondary lines. In essence a major event is where widespread outages or Service
13 Interruptions have occurred in the service area of the Company due to storms or other
14 causes beyond the control of the Company.

15
16 **Q. Based upon the outages experienced as a result of the Feb. 2010 Wind Storm and
17 Mar. 2011 Ice Storm, do these storms qualify, based on the outage criteria, for
18 Storm Fund reimbursement?**

19 A. Yes they do. Based on the outages and "troubles" as defined by the Storm Fund, each of
20 the Major Storms I've described above meet the qualifications for Storm Fund
21 reimbursement. Both the Feb. 2010 Wind Storm and Mar. 2011 Ice Storm resulted in

²The Company designates a crew as consisting of two workers. Therefore, a half-crew consists of one worker and is typically represented by a troubleworker supporting the overhead system or an extra crew member supporting the

1 more than 45 instances of concurrent troubles.

2

3 **V. Conclusion**

4 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

5 **A.** Yes, it does.

underground system.