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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

October 24, 2012 - 10:30 a.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

NHPUC NOV05'12 PM 2:49

RE: DE 12-292
PUBLIC SERVICE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:
2013 Default Energy Service Rate.
(Prehearing conference)

PRESENT: Chairman Amy L. Ignatius, Presiding
Commissioner Robert R. Scott
Commissioner Michael D. Harrington

Sandy Deno, Clerk

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Public Service of New Hampshire:
Matthew J. Fossum, Esq.

Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:
Susan W. Chamberlin, Esq., Consumer Advocate
Stephen Eckberg
Office of Consumer Advocate

Reptg. PUC Staff:
Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.
Steven E. Mullen, Asst. Dir./Electric Div.

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

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STATEMENTS OF PRELIMINARY POSITION BY:

Mr. Fossum	4
Ms. Chamberlin	5
Ms. Amidon	6

1 MS. AMIDON: Good morning. Suzanne
2 Amidon, for Commission Staff. With me today is Steve
3 Mullen, the Assistant Director of the Electric Division.

4 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Good morning,
5 everyone. We have a notice from the OCA that the Office
6 will be participating in this case, but we have no other
7 filings of anyone seeking to intervene, and it doesn't
8 appear there is anyone here this morning seeking
9 intervention. And, do we have an affidavit of publication
10 filed? Thank you. So, I don't think we have any other
11 administrative details to get through, unless anyone knows
12 of anything?

13 (No verbal response)

14 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: If not, then let's
15 take positions of the parties on the docket. Mr. Fossum.

16 MR. FOSSUM: Thank you. Similar to the
17 Stranded Cost Recovery, PSNH has proposed -- submitted
18 proposed changes to its Energy Service rate for effect on
19 January 1st, 2013. And, those rates are calculated and
20 presented in essentially the same manner as they have been
21 presented in the past, in past filings.

22 One thing I did want to address very
23 quickly is that it's been brought to my attention that the
24 cover letter with my signature to the original filing is a

1 bit confusing. In the middle of the big paragraph on that
2 page, there's a rate comparison that compares the rate
3 with Scrubber-related costs to a rate without
4 Scrubber-related costs. So, essentially, it's not an
5 apples-to-apples comparison in that portion of the cover
6 letter. There was no intent to make it confusing. It was
7 just, I guess, a poor drafting, and I'll take the blame on
8 that. But I did want to clarify that, since it was
9 brought to my attention.

10 As with prior filings, we'll be updating
11 all of the numbers closer to the date of the hearing.
12 And, we will be working with the Staff and the OCA on
13 their questions and concerns relative to this filing in
14 preparation for the hearing. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.

16 Ms. Chamberlin.

17 MS. CHAMBERLIN: Thank you, madam Chair.
18 Along with our efforts to support customer choice, we are
19 also working to increase the transparency of the rates to
20 the residential customers, and working on, in this docket
21 and the other related dockets, on having open access to
22 information so customers can become educated about their
23 options. So, we will be implementing policies or
24 attempting to implement policies along those lines.

1 And, other than that, I'm looking
2 forward to moving forward in the docket.

3 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Ms.
4 Amidon.

5 MS. AMIDON: Thank you. Staff has no
6 position on the docket at present. As is customary with
7 these proceedings, we will be conducting discovery, and
8 which will begin with a technical session that follows
9 this prehearing conference. We will propose a procedural
10 schedule. And, we expect to be able to report back to the
11 Commission before the end of week with our
12 recommendations. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Any
14 questions from the Commissioners?

15 CMSR. HARRINGTON: Just one comment. On
16 Page 6 and 7 of the testimony, there's some -- I'll let
17 people get there -- starting in the bottom of Page 6 and
18 the top of Page 7, there's a discussion on the
19 Massachusetts changes in Class I renewable regarding
20 biomass regulation. And, it talks about "PSNH is working
21 with a consultant...to explore all opportunities to
22 satisfy the eligible biomass wood fuel certification." My
23 understanding of that is it requires a very high
24 efficiency factor, which is probably much above what the

1 present Schiller Station is. So, I guess, and you don't
2 have to answer the question now, but I'd be interested in,
3 is the Company pursuing some physical changes to the plant
4 that would increase the efficiency, so that it would be
5 eligible for the RECs in Massachusetts under the new
6 rules? Or, is this just a standard boilerplate, "we're
7 looking to check them out" type thing? So, just something
8 you may want to comment on when we get back to the
9 hearing.

10 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. If
11 there's nothing else, then we look forward to the report
12 of the tech session and proposed procedural schedule.
13 And, we'll take all of that under advisement. Thank you.

14 **(Whereupon the prehearing conference**
15 **ended at 10:35 a.m., and thereafter a**
16 **technical session was commenced**
17 **regarding issues related to DE 12-291**
18 **and DE 12-292.)**