

## THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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November 19, 2013

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

**Re: DM 13-252 Objections to Public Utility Assessments  
Staff Report of Technical Session**

Dear Ms. Howland:

On September 6, 2013, Northern New England Telephone Operations LLC (FairPoint) and Enhanced Communications of Northern New England, Inc. (Enhanced Communications) filed an objection to their fiscal year 2013 public utility assessments issued by the Commission pursuant to RSA 363-A. On September 9, 2013, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed an objection to its public utility assessment asking for relief "in the event that any other changes to the assessment method are made as a result of any other objections." PSNH stated that it was requesting this relief "to protect its rights in the event the Commission may conclude in response to other potential objections that the assessment structure should be amended in a manner that results in PSNH, and its customers, being obligated to pay a greater amount."

The Commission issued an Order of Notice on October 8, 2013 scheduling a pre-hearing conference for November 14, 2013 and setting a deadline for petitions to intervene of November 8, 2013. On September 23, 2013, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a letter indicating its participation in this docket on behalf of residential ratepayers pursuant to RSA 363:28.

Petitions to intervene were filed on behalf of Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (UES) and Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern), New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC), Granite State Electric Company and EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc., both d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty Utilities), New England Power Company (NEP), New England Electric Transmission Corporation (NEET) and New England Hydro-Transmission Corporation (NE Hydro), Electricity N.H., LLC d/b/a/ E.N.H. Power (ENH Power), and the Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA). The petition to intervene filed by RESA indicates that, if the Commission

were to state clearly that it does not have the authority to assess competitive electric power suppliers (CEPS) under current law, it would have no need to intervene and would withdraw its petition.

These petitions to intervene remain pending following the pre-hearing conference held on November 14, 2013. No objections to these petitions have been filed, and no objections were raised orally during the pre-hearing conference. Staff stated at the pre-hearing conference that it does not intend to argue that the Commission has the authority to assess CEPS under RSA 363-A as currently in effect.

Following the pre-hearing conference, representatives of FairPoint, Enhanced Communications, PSNH and prospective interveners met in technical session to establish a procedural schedule for this proceeding. The technical session participants agreed to the following schedule:

FairPoint/Enhanced Communications Testimony	January 17, 2014
Data Requests	January 31, 2014
Data Request Responses	February 14, 2014
PSNH/Intervener Testimony	March 7, 2014
Data Requests	March 21, 2014
Data Request Responses	April 4, 2014
Technical Session	April 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.
Legal Briefs Due	April 18, 2014
Hearing on Merits	April 30, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

Staff, on behalf of the parties, respectfully requests that the Commission approve the proposed procedural schedule. I certify that a copy of this letter will be served electronically on the parties on the service list at the same time it is filed with the Commission.

Sincerely,



David K. Wiesner  
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner