

1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

2 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

3
4 October 28, 2013 - 10:05 a.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

5 NHPUC NOV12'13 PM 3:20

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7 RE: DE 13-274
8 PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:
9 Petition for Adjustment to the Stranded
10 Cost Recovery Charge.
11 (*Prehearing conference*)12
13
14 **PRESENT:** Chairman Amy L. Ignatius, Presiding
15 Commissioner Robert R. Scott
16 Commissioner Michael D. Harrington
17
18 Clare Howard-Pike, Clerk19
20
21 **APPEARANCES:** Reptg. Public Service Co. of New Hampshire:
22 Matthew J. Fossum, Esq.23
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25 **Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:**
26 Susan Chamberlin, Esq., Consumer Advocate
27 Stephen Eckberg
28 Office of Consumer Advocate29
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31 **Reptg. PUC Staff:**
32 Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.
33 Steven E. Mullen, Asst. Dir./Electric Div.34
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STATEMENTS OF PRELIMINARY POSITION BY:

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

P R O C E E D I N G

1
2 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I'd like to open the
3 hearing in Docket DE 13-274. This is PSNH's Petition to
4 adjust its Stranded Cost Recovery Charge. This is a
5 docket that's opened as a result of a September 27, 2013
6 filing by PSNH to adjust its SCRC. And, by an order of
7 notice dated October 9th, 2013, we called for a hearing
8 today -- excuse me, a prehearing conference, followed by a
9 technical session, and also asked for any requests for
10 intervention. I see nothing in the file suggesting there
11 are intervenors. But, if there is anyone here seeking to
12 intervene, we'll take that up. But it looks like there's
13 not.

14 So, let's begin with appearances please.

15 MR. FOSSUM: Good morning,
16 Commissioners. Matthew Fossum, for Public Service Company
17 of New Hampshire.

18 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Good morning.

19 MS. CHAMBERLIN: Good morning,
20 Commissioners, Chairman Ignatius. Susan Chamberlin,
21 Consumer Advocate for the residential ratepayers. And,
22 with me today is Steve Eckberg.

23 MS. AMIDON: Good morning. Suzanne
24 Amidon, for Commission Staff. With me today is Steve

1 Mullen, the Assistant Director of the Electric Division.

2 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Good morning.

3 Welcome, everyone. Let me ask the Clerk, do we have an
4 affidavit of publication?

5 MS. HOWARD-PIKE: Yes. October 16th.

6 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Then,
7 unless there's anything to do prior to this, why don't we
8 begin with some preliminary statements and any issues that
9 you anticipate coming up in this docket that we should be
10 aware of. If there's any scope issues that we need to
11 clarify or consider, we're happy to hear that as well.
12 Mr. Fossum.

13 MR. FOSSUM: Thank you. I guess,
14 preliminarily, the one thing I'd like to bring up first is
15 that, in the cover letter to the September 27th filing,
16 and in the text of the accompanying Petition, there is
17 reference to an estimated SCRC rate of 0.39 cents per
18 kilowatt-hour, but the testimony and schedules reference
19 an estimated average rate of 0.38. And, I wanted to
20 clarify that 0.38 is the correct number. With that said,
21 that number is subject to change, of course.

22 This is a filing consistent with how
23 PSNH has handled its prior Stranded Cost Recovery Charge
24 filings. By this filing, we would propose to adjust the

1 average rate from 0.127 cents per kilowatt-hour to 0.38
2 cents per kilowatt-hour. The reason for the change is
3 explained in the accompanying documents that certain
4 credits, relating both to the RRB reserve and federal DOE
5 litigation, were previously included, those credits are
6 either reducing or being eliminated. So, the rate will
7 change accordingly. Those are, to the best of my
8 knowledge, the only particular issues to this filing.

9 And, consistent with past practice, PSNH
10 anticipates working with the parties to the docket to
11 discuss any issues that they may have, to go through
12 discovery. And, PSNH anticipates filing an updated
13 schedule closer to the date of the hearing, to ensure that
14 the most recent information will be used in setting the
15 rate for January 1st. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.

17 Ms. Chamberlin.

18 MS. CHAMBERLIN: Thank you. In regards
19 to scope, we will be looking very closely at the reasons
20 for the proposed increase in the stranded costs. And,
21 that will be our primary focus.

22 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Ms.

23 Amidon.

24 MS. AMIDON: Thank you. Staff has not

1 begun to investigate this filing. But we have developed a
2 proposed procedural schedule to accommodate the Company's
3 request for an order regarding rates, so that they can
4 take effect on January 1, 2014. And, we'll be working
5 with the parties to work through that process, including,
6 in our schedule, an update that the Company customarily
7 provides before the hearing, so that we can get the most
8 recent cost estimates and actual costs related to the
9 SCRC.

10 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. I
11 understand, at the close of this and the docket right
12 afterwards, another prehearing conference in 13-275, there
13 will be a joint technical session?

14 MS. AMIDON: That was the intention. I
15 do realize that the Company -- the Commission noticed the
16 docket -- noticed the prehearing conference for the docket
17 on the Energy Service rate to begin at 10:30. And, I
18 believe there is another intervenor in that docket who is
19 not here now. So, one thing that occurred to me was to at
20 least talk about the procedural schedule at the technical
21 session that intervenes between this prehearing conference
22 and the next prehearing conference, to resolve those
23 issues, so that we could maybe begin some substantive
24 discovery in the Energy Service docket after that

1 prehearing conference.

2 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Well,
3 that certainly makes sense, if there's time between the
4 two. It looks like there is a little bit of time. Any
5 questions? Questions from the Commissioners?

6 CMSR. HARRINGTON: Not at this time.

7 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Nothing.
8 Then, we will await hearing about a procedural schedule.
9 And, if you're able to make any progress before the next
10 one begins, that's a good use of time. We'll take this
11 under advisement, and then return at 10:30. Thank you.

12 MS. AMIDON: Thank you.

13 **(Whereupon the prehearing conference**
14 **ended at 10:10 a.m., and the parties**
15 **conducted a technical session**
16 **thereafter.)**