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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

October 10, 2014 - 10:12 a.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

NHPUC NOV03'14 PM 4:14

RE: DE 14-216
ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES:
2015-2016 CORE New Hampshire Electric
and Gas Energy Efficiency Programs.
(Prehearing conference)

PRESENT: Chairman Amy L. Ignatius, Presiding
Commissioner Robert R. Scott
Commissioner Martin P. Honigberg

Sandy Deno, Clerk

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

Reptg. Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural
Gas) Corp. & Liberty Utilities (Granite State
Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities:
Sarah B. Knowlton, Esq.

Reptg. Unutil Energy Systems and
Northern Utilities:
Rachel A. Goldwasser, Esq. (Orr & Reno)

Reptg. New Hampshire Electric Cooperative:
Mark W. Dean, Esq.

COURT REPORTER: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

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APPEARANCES: (c o n t i n u e d)

Reptg. Community Action Association.:
Rob Bowers

Reptg. N.H. Office of Energy & Planning:
Karen Cramton, Deputy Director

Reptg. The Way Home:
Dennis Labbe, Esq. (N.H. Legal Assistance)

Reptg. N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services:
Rebecca Ohler, DES Energy Programs Manager

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

Reptg. PUC Staff:
Alexander Speidel, Esq.
Leszek Stachow, Asst. Dir/Electric Division
James J. Cunningham, Jr., Electric Division

P R O C E E D I N G

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2 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Good morning and
3 welcome, everyone. We're here on the Docket DE 14-216,
4 which is the CORE Electric and Gas Energy Programs for
5 calendar years 2015 and 2016. This is a prehearing
6 conference that was scheduled by a Commission Order of
7 Notice, thank you, dated September 16th. It acknowledged
8 the filing of the joint proposals by the electric
9 utilities and the gas utilities for this two-year period
10 beginning January 1, 2015. It called for appearance --
11 excuse me -- for interventions, and set forth the likely
12 issues to be taken up.

13 So, we'll begin first with appearances,
14 and then consider the intervention requests that we've
15 received. And, if there's any further this morning, we'll
16 take those up as well. Begin with Mr. Fossum.

17 MR. FOSSUM: Good morning to all of the
18 Commissioners. I see the Chair is still here. Matthew
19 Fossum, on behalf of Public Service Company of New
20 Hampshire this morning.

21 MS. KNOWLTON: Good morning,
22 Commissioners. Sarah Knowlton, here today for Liberty
23 Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. and Liberty
24 Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. With me today

1 from the Company are a number of Company folks: Stephen
2 Hall, Heather Tebbetts, Eric Stanley, Bob Reals.

3 MS. GOLDWASSER: Good morning. I'm
4 Rachel Goldwasser, from the law firm of Orr & Reno, here
5 today on behalf of Northern Utilities and Unitil Energy
6 Systems. And, with me are Tom Palma and Mary Downs from
7 those companies.

8 MS. CRAMTON: Good morning. Karen
9 Cramton, representing the Office of Energy & Planning.

10 MR. DEAN: Good morning. Mark Dean,
11 representing the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative.

12 MR. LABBE: Good morning. Dennis Labbe,
13 representing New Hampshire Legal Assistance and The Way
14 Home.

15 MS. OHLER: Good morning. Becky Ohler,
16 representing the Department of Environmental Services.

17 MS. CHAMBERLIN: Good morning. Susan
18 Chamberlin, Consumer Advocate, for the residential
19 ratepayers.

20 MR. SPEIDEL: Good morning,
21 Commissioners. Alexander Speidel, representing the Staff
22 of the Commission. And, I have with me Leszek Stachow,
23 who is the Assistant Director of the Electric Division,
24 and I also have with me Jim Cunningham, Analyst in the

1 Electric Division.

2 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Welcome,
3 everyone. And, why don't we first consider appearances --
4 excuse me -- how do I get the word "appearances" and
5 "interventions" crossed this morning? It's the second
6 time. Intervention requests. We have received filings
7 from The Way Home, from Office of Energy & Planning, from
8 the New Hampshire Community Action Association, though I
9 don't think anyone is here today. Oh, I'm sorry.

10 MR. BOWERS: Rob Bowers, for the
11 Community Action Association.

12 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. And, can
13 you repeat your name again please?

14 MR. BOWERS: Rob Bowers.

15 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Welcome. We have
16 also a Notice of Intention to Participate from the OCA.

17 MR. SPEIDEL: And, Department of
18 Environmental Services. The Department of Environmental
19 Services, they also filed an intervention requested.

20 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Okay. Yes, you're
21 right. Thank you. We considered all of the requests
22 prior to the meeting this morning, but we want to see if
23 there's any responses from any of the parties? Is there
24 any objection to any of the intervention requests?

1 (No verbal response)

2 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Seeing
3 none, we're satisfied that the applicants met the
4 standards under the statute for intervention and we'll
5 grant the requests.

6 We know that a procedural schedule has
7 already been developed, which is great, and a letter went
8 out from our Executive Director setting forth the dates.
9 Is there any expectation that that schedule needs further
10 revision?

11 (No verbal response)

12 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. So,
13 we'll assume that that goes forward, unless there's a need
14 for any sort of adjustment down the road.

15 Let's talk about any issues that you
16 anticipate in this case, any areas of particular concern
17 that we can address here, or notify each other of concerns
18 that you're going to want to be exploring, as really as a
19 kick-off to further technical sessions and discovery that
20 you'll be doing on the proposed plan.

21 Mr. Fossum, we'll begin with you.

22 MR. FOSSUM: Certainly. I guess, very
23 briefly, PSNH filed on behalf of all the utilities the
24 plan demonstrating the intentions of the Companies, you

1 know, the reasonings and support behind it. And, we
2 anticipate working with the parties, the intervenors to
3 the docket. We don't, at this time, anticipate there
4 being any particular issue and need of the Commission's
5 immediate attention. And, we look forward to continuing
6 with the docket.

7 I would note that, consistent with the
8 procedural schedule, we've already begun the discovery
9 process in this docket. So, that process is already
10 underway. And, we'll continue that as set out in the
11 schedule.

12 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: That's great. Thank
13 you. Ms. Knowlton.

14 MS. KNOWLTON: The only issue I would
15 note for the Commission, which does not require attention
16 now, but will require attention towards the end of the
17 year, is the need for an order by the end of the year. We
18 have a hearing scheduled for December 15th. And, as you
19 may recall, as has been the case in prior years, the
20 programs will expire at the end of this year without
21 approval from the Commission. And, we are quite eager to
22 continue these programs, particularly in light of high
23 electric prices that will be in effect this winter.

24 So, we would just remind the Commission

1 that we'll all be working hard to hopefully present a
2 settlement to the Commission on the issues, but we will be
3 looking for an order so that the programs can continue
4 effective January 1st, 2015.

5 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.
6 Ms. Goldwasser.

7 MS. GOLDWASSER: I don't have anything
8 to add to what Attorney Fossum and Attorney Knowlton have
9 already said.

10 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Mr. Bowers.

11 MR. BOWERS: No comment.

12 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Ms. Cramton.

13 MS. CRAMTON: No position at this time.
14 We look forward to working with everybody.

15 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Mr. Dean.

16 MR. DEAN: Nothing to add. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Everybody is way too
18 agreeable here. Mr. Labbe.

19 MR. LABBE: No issues or concerns at
20 this time.

21 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Ms. Ohler.

22 MS. OHLER: No issues.

23 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Ms. Chamberlin.

24 MS. CHAMBERLIN: I have to say that the

1 OCA and other parties reached out to the utilities
2 requesting the opportunity to participate earlier in the
3 process. And, the utilities accepted that request, and we
4 have had meetings, and we have put forth -- we had a
5 brainstorming session and we put forth ideas about
6 programs, many of which are reflected in the filing. And,
7 so, I just wanted that noted that it was a productive
8 process, and we look forward to continuing that.

9 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Well, that's good.
10 These do move very quickly, and there's a lot to digest.
11 So, I'm glad that's been successful work.

12 Mr. Speidel, any issues from Staff?

13 MR. SPEIDEL: No issues at the present
14 time, Chairman. Staff expects to engage in further
15 targeted discovery regarding the CORE Program filing.
16 And, we have a number of accounting-related questions that
17 we'll tease out and work through with the Companies.

18 And, also, we do intend to have an order
19 issued before the end of the year. It's a slightly
20 telescoped schedule this year, because the filing came in
21 a little bit later than usual. But we expect that the
22 year-end deadline will be met. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Good. All right.
24 Is there anything else that we should take up before we

1 adjourn our portion of this and leave you to continue the
2 discovery discussion phase?

3 (No verbal response)

4 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Seeing nothing, then
5 we'll adjourn this phase. We look forward to the next
6 developments. And, it is a very intense schedule to get
7 from beginning to end by the end of December, so we
8 appreciate everyone's efforts in doing so. Thank you.
9 We're adjourned.

10 **(Whereupon the prehearing conference was**
11 **adjourned at 10:21 a.m., and a technical**
12 **session was commenced thereafter.)**