

1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

2 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

3
4 October 29, 2014 - 9:33 a.m.
5 Concord, New Hampshire

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7 RE: DE 14-235
8 PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:
9 Proposed Default Energy Service Rate
10 for 2015. (Prehearing conference)

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13 PRESENT: Commissioner Robert R. Scott, Presiding
14 Commissioner Martin P. Honigberg

15 Sandy Deno, Clerk

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

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20 Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:
21 James Brennan
22 Office of Consumer Advocate

23 Reptg. PUC Staff:
24 Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.

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

ORIGINAL

I N D E X**PAGE NO.****STATEMENTS OF PRELIMINARY POSITION BY:**

Mr. Fossum 4

Mr. Brennan 5

Ms. Amidon 5

P R O C E E D I N G

CMSR. SCOTT: Good morning again. We'll open the prehearing conference for Docket DE 14-235, Public Service Company of New Hampshire's Petition to set its Default Service Energy rate for effect with service rendered on and after January 1st, 2015. This Petition was filed on September 15th, 2014.

Pursuant to RSA 369-B, customers who take Energy Service from PSNH will be billed at a rate equal to PSNH's actual, prudent and reasonable costs of providing the power. Energy Service cost categories include revenue requirements associated with PSNH's owned generation assets and the cost of its purchase power obligations, the costs of its supplemental and capacity purchases, certain Independent System Operator-New England ancillary service charges, and the cost of compliance with the New Hampshire Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the Renewable Portfolio Standard of New Hampshire.

Pursuant to Order 25,346, of April 2012, in Docket DE 11-250, the Commission established a temporary Scrubber cost recovery rate of 0.98 cents per kilowatt-hour. The overall Energy Service rate includes the non-Scrubber energy cost recovery component plus the temporary Scrubber cost recovery rate.

1 As mentioned earlier, in the last
2 docket, a joint technical session on both this docket and
3 DE 14-236 will follow the conclusion of this prehearing
4 conference.

5 Again, let's take appearances.

6 MR. FOSSUM: And, good morning again,
7 Commissioners. Matthew Fossum, for Public Service Company
8 of New Hampshire.

9 CMSR. SCOTT: Thank you.

10 MR. BRENNAN: Good morning,
11 Commissioners. Jim Brennan, Office of Consumer Advocate.

12 MS. AMIDON: Good morning. Suzanne
13 Amidon, for Commission Staff. With me today is Les
14 Stachow, the Assistant Director of the Electric Division,
15 and Grant Siwinski, an Analyst with that Division.

16 CMSR. SCOTT: Okay. And, any -- how
17 about statements of the parties? We'll move forward.

18 MR. FOSSUM: Good morning,
19 Commissioners. Again, much like with the prior prehearing
20 held this morning, PSNH is not aware of any requests for
21 interventions at this time, and therefore has no statement
22 on that issue in particular.

23 And, as for the filing itself, the
24 Commission has received and obviously reviewed it. And,

1 we will continue to review with the Staff and the OCA, and
2 in preparation for having an Energy Service rate for
3 effect January 1st of 2015. Thank you.

4 CMSR. SCOTT: Thank you. Mr. Brennan.

5 MR. BRENNAN: Good morning. The OCA has
6 no position at this time.

7 CMSR. SCOTT: Thank you.

8 MS. AMIDON: Good morning. Staff will
9 undertake a review of the filing with the Company and with
10 OCA. And, our principal review will focus on whether the
11 costs or the actual, reasonable and prudent costs that
12 PSNH incurs in connection with providing Default Service
13 pursuant to RSA 369-B:3, IV(b)(1) and the prior Commission
14 orders. So, we will look at whether they have calculated
15 the rate consistent with prior orders of the Commission
16 and with the statute. Thank you.

17 CMSR. SCOTT: Thank you. Commissioner?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CMSR. SCOTT: I do have one comment for
20 the utility. Obviously, for other utilities, the
21 increases in electric service rates for the winter has
22 been something that's been on the public mind. So, I
23 would suggest again if, as you get closer to the
24 finalization, it looks like the rate may increase, it

1 would be helpful for public consumption for your
2 ratepayers to understand if there is going to be a change
3 from what originally was talked about in the press. I
4 know there was some press earlier, I don't know if it came
5 from PSNH or was just covering the filing itself, but --

6 MR. FOSSUM: Understood, Commissioner.
7 We have traditionally filed an update to the rate in
8 December, close to the date of the actual hearing. So,
9 while I can't say with 100 percent certainty that there
10 will be a change, it's certainly likely that there would
11 be a change to the rate from what was originally filed.
12 And, we would communicate that in the tradition that we
13 have done so over the last few years for the rate changes
14 that occur at that time.

15 CMSR. SCOTT: Okay. Thank you. Are
16 there any procedural issues that we need to address?

17 MS. AMIDON: Staff has already proposed
18 a procedural schedule, which the Company and the OCA have
19 reviewed. The Company has accepted it, the OCA continues
20 to review it. But we'll be submitting that for the
21 Commission following the technical session.

22 CMSR. SCOTT: Excellent. Thank you.
23 All right. Unless there's any other issues, we will
24 conclude and let you get to your technical sessions.

1 Thank you.

2 (Whereupon the prehearing conference was
3 adjourned at 9:38 a.m., and a technical
4 session was held thereafter.)
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