

DE 00-270

CONCORD ELECTRIC COMPANY AND EXETER & HAMPTON ELECTRIC COMPANY

Petition of Concord Electric Company and Exeter & Hampton  
Electric Company for Waiver of PUC 1203.05(b)

Order NISI Order Approving Waiver

O R D E R    N O.    23,644

March 5, 2001

On February 5, 2001, Concord Electric Company (CEC) and Exeter & Hampton Electric Company (E&H) (collectively "the Companies") filed a letter and Petition for Waiver of PUC 1203.05(b). This rule requires rate changes occurring as a result of fuel and purchased power adjustment clauses and fuel adjustment clauses shall be implemented on the basis of bills rendered on or after the effective date of the approved rate change. The letter details the Companies' progress in converting their billing systems from bills rendered to service rendered as ordered by the Commission in Order No. 23,611 (December 29, 2000). The Petition requests the Commission to permanently waive Puc 1203.05(b) in order to implement all future rate changes on a service rendered basis. The petitioners also request that the change in billing not take effect until the Companies' next rate change.

In support of their Petition, the Companies state that the rule, which the Commission waived when it ordered the

Companies to change billing systems, "does not contemplate changes between two billing methodologies". Additionally, changing billing systems requires time and resources, and granting the permanent waiver will allow for efficient planning. In support of delaying the system change-over, the Companies point out that changing bills to service rendered will have no impact on bills until rates change. Delaying the conversion will give the Companies the opportunity to notify customers of the billing change.

The Commission prefers the Companies to remain on a service rendered billing system and finds it would be inefficient to require the Companies to request a waiver of Puc 1203.05(b) for every Fuel and Purchase Power Adjustment filing. Therefore, the Commission will grant the Companies a permanent waiver of 1203.05(b). Because changing billing systems at this point in time will have no impact on customer bills, we will also allow the Companies to delay implementation until such time as rates are changed. We expect the Companies to perform as close as possible to 100 percent actual meter readings for the periods prior to and during the rate change in order to minimize re-billing during the conversion period.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED NISI**, that Puc 1203.05(b) is permanently waived for Concord Electric Company and Exeter & Hampton Electric Company; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Concord Electric Company and Exeter & Hampton Electric Company change their billing systems from bills rendered to service rendered at the time of the Companies' next rate change; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Petitioner shall cause a copy of this Order Nisi to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted, such publication to be no later than March 12, 2001 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before March 19, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that all persons interested in responding to this petition be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission no later than March 22, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than March 26, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that this Order Nisi shall be effective April 5, 2001, unless the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fifth day of March, 2001.

---

Douglas L. Patch  
Chairman

---

Susan S. Geiger  
Commissioner

---

Nancy Brockway  
Commissioner

Attested by:

---

Thomas B. Getz  
Executive Director and Secretary