

**DE 00-080**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**Integrated Least Cost Transmission Plan for 2000**

**Order Approving 2000 Integrated Least Cost Transmission Plan**

**ORDER NO. 24,381**

**October 8, 2004**

On June 30, 2000, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed with the Commission, pursuant to RSA 378:38, its “2000 PSNH Integrated Least Cost Transmission Plan” (2000 ILCTP). RSA 378:38 requires each utility to file a least cost resource plan with the Commission at least biennially. The filing was preceded by PSNH’s request on April 4, 2000 for a waiver, pursuant to RSA 378:38-a, of the filing requirements of RSA 378:38, I, II, III, V, VI, VII, and IX. By Executive Letter dated May 25, 2000, the Commission granted the PSNH waiver request on a temporary basis and directed PSNH to file by June 30, 2000 a final transmission plan. On October 7, 2004, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a recommendation to close the docket and make the temporary waiver request permanent.

PSNH’s 2000 ILCTP was made at a time of increasing competition in the electric industry and numerous and significant regulatory and structural changes at the state, regional and national level. The filing included an assessment of transmission requirements (RSA 378:38, IV) and an assessment of plan integration and impact on state compliance with the National Energy Policy Act of 1992 (RSA 378:38, VIII). Staff’s review led to the conclusion that PSNH understood the changes that were occurring at that time, such as the effects that increasing competitive generation would have on siting and reliability and addressed those changes adequately and appropriately in the 2000 ILCTP. In particular, PSNH employed a complex

modeling process based on integrated planning principles. Before a transmission project is approved, the project must meet a number of screens that include cost-effectiveness, environmental impacts, system efficiencies, the service requirements of transmission customers and how the project meets state and national reliability policies. Technological changes and effects on local service also are considered.

We have reviewed the 2000 ILCTP and Staff's analysis of the filing. Given the significant changes that have occurred at the regional and national level since the 2000 ILCTP filing, including the development of a comprehensive transmission planning process managed by the independent operator of the transmission grid, ISO-NE, in which PSNH actively participates, we find that PSNH's planning process was adequate. The 2000 ILCTP will provide a valuable reference to future PSNH least cost plans as PSNH's planning process evolves with the changing competitive electric industry.

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

**ORDERED**, that the temporary waiver request granted by Executive Letter on May 25, 2000 for RSA 378:38 I, II, III, V, VI, VII and IX is made permanent; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, the filing demonstrated PSNH's 2000 planning process was adequate.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighth day of  
October, 2004.

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Thomas B. Getz  
Chairman

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Graham J. Morrison  
Commissioner

Attested by:

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Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director & Secretary