

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 10-326

GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC COMPANY, d/b/a NATIONAL GRID

Order Suspending Tariff and Scheduling a Hearing

ORDER NO. 25,191

January 7, 2011

On December 10, 2010, Granite State Electric Company, d/b/a National Grid (National Grid or the Company) filed a proposed tariff revision to its outdoor lighting service Rate M for effect with service rendered on and after January 1, 2011. The filing was made pursuant to RSA 9-E:4, which requires the Commission to establish requirements for an electric utility rate for partial night use of outdoor lighting systems. In its filing, National Grid requested approval of a new “Part-Night Option” under its tariff governing hours of operation to allow for part-night operation of outdoor lighting in addition to full night service. The Company stated that the proposed tariff revision will allow outdoor lighting customers to select the Part-Night Option if the customer illuminates roadways during the initial night time hours and seeks to conserve energy by turning off street lighting in the later night time hours when traffic volume is low. National Grid filed supporting testimony and related schedules including draft tariff pages.

National Grid explained that under its existing Rate M, all street lights are deemed to be in operation from approximately one-half hour after sunset (dusk) until approximately one-half hour before sunrise (dawn). Under the proposed Part-Night Option provisions, an outdoor light would turn on at dusk and operate for a period equal to one-half of the prior night’s dusk-to-dawn cycle. The light would then turn off and remain off for a period of five and one-half

hours. After five and one-half hours, if ambient light conditions are less than observed at dusk, the light would turn on until approximately thirty minutes before dawn.

National Grid said that outdoor lighting customers can select the Part-Night Option service for any new light installations or request to change the mode of operation for all or some of the customer's existing street lights. The tariff provides that the cost of the service and related expenses would be borne by the customer. National Grid said that the cost of the service to change to part night hours is \$150.00 per light. The related expenses, which would also be paid by the customer, include work zone protection, traffic control and permit fees.

Under the proposed tariff, billing changes would become effective following the completion of each work order and would be reflected in the next bill cycle. National Grid stated that the billing associated with the energy usage under the Part-Night Option would be less than for full night service due to the reduced hours of operation. According to the Company, the billing impact for the energy based charges would be based upon 2,448 hours of operation annually for the part-night operation as compared to the 4,175 annual for full-night service street lighting. The actual energy cost savings would depend on the individual lamp type wattage and light fixture type.

The Company said that it proposes to revise the existing Rate M tariff to clarify that the State, municipalities and other public entity customers as well as installations on tunnels and bridges would be eligible to elect the Part-Night Option.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the filing complies with the requirements of RSA Chapter 9-E, whether the proposed costs to be paid by customers who select Part-Night Service are reasonable, and whether the costs associate with the tariff are just

and reasonable pursuant to RSA 378:7. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

This order and subsequent docket filings, other than information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docket/2010/10-326.htm>.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b), the Commission hereby suspends National Grid's proposed tariff to allow the filing to be investigated; and it is

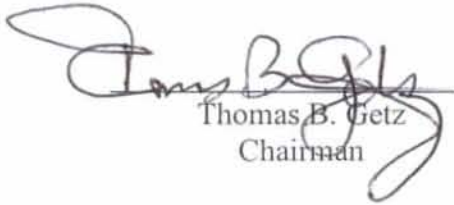
FURTHER ORDERED, that a Hearing be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on February 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.; and it is


FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, National Grid shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order no later than January 17, 2011 in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before February 6, 2011; and it is

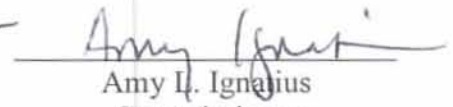
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to National Grid and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before January 24, 2011, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before January 31, 2011.


By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventh day of
January, 2011.


Thomas B. Getz
Chairman


Clifton C. Below
Commissioner


Amy L. Ignatius
Commissioner

Attested by:


Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

