

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 12-191

**NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND PUBLIC SERVICE
COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Request to Alter Franchise Boundaries in Chester, New Hampshire

Order *Nisi* Approving Franchise Boundary Change

ORDER NO. 25,562

August 7, 2013

On June 18, 2012, Ryan Hazelton filed a letter with the Commission regarding electric service to a new residence located on Harantis Lake Road in Chester, New Hampshire. The letter and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, is posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2012/12-191.html>.

According to Mr. Hazelton, the residence is located in the service territory of Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH), but PSNH does not currently offer power on the road where the residence is located. Mr. Hazelton explained that the nearest PSNH facilities are located on Derry Road. Mr. Hazelton said that PSNH estimated that to provide service to the residence from the Derry Road facilities, PSNH would have to install 8 or 9 poles and that the total cost to Mr. Hazelton would be approximately \$18,000. Mr. Hazelton stated that the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) currently maintains an electric service pole on the Harantis Lake Road within a few hundred feet from the location of the residence. To provide service to the residence, NHEC would only have to install one pole and the cost would be less

than half of the price estimate offered by PSNH. Consequently, Mr. Hazelton requested that the Commission authorize NHEC to serve the new residence.

On June 17, 2013, NHEC and PSNH filed a joint request that the Commission issue an order approving a change in the franchise area served by the two utilities in Chester to accommodate the request of Mr. Hazelton and allow NHEC to provide electric service to his Chester residence. The joint request acknowledged that the location of Mr. Hazelton's residence is in PSNH's service territory and confirmed that NHEC's existing distribution facilities are located substantially closer to Mr. Hazelton's residence than any existing PSNH facilities. In addition, the joint request noted that the extension of electric utility distribution service to Mr. Hazelton's residence from NHEC's facilities would be substantially less costly than the construction of the longer extension that would be required to connect the residence with PSNH's existing facilities. With the joint request, NHEC and PSNH provided a satellite photograph of the relevant area and NHEC included a copy of the Chester portion of its current franchise map.

NHEC and PSNH stated that it is uncertain where future development, if any, would occur on Harantis Lake Road; however, in light of the specific circumstances regarding Mr. Hazelton's residence, NHEC and PSNH agreed to adjust their respective franchise boundaries in Chester to place Mr. Hazelton's residence in NHEC's franchise area without otherwise altering the border between their respective franchise areas in Chester. NHEC and PSNH affirmed that, as with previous similar circumstances, Mr. Hazelton's residence will be identified on the franchise maps with a notation that the address is to be served by NHEC.

Staff filed a memorandum on July 30, 2013 recommending that the Commission grant NHEC's and PSNH's joint petition because it serves the interest of all involved and that the limited franchise change is supported by Mr. Hazelton as well. Staff recommended that the Commission approve the change through an order *nisi*.

We have reviewed Mr. Hazelton's letter, the NHEC and PSNH joint request and Staff's recommendation. Pursuant to RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26 and based on our review, we find that it is in the public interest to approve the change to NHEC's franchise to allow Mr. Hazelton to receive electric service from NHEC. We approve the change on a *nisi* basis in order to provide any interested party the opportunity to submit comments or request a hearing. We also direct NHEC to file its updated franchise map noting this approved change.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, that subject to the effective date below, the request of Mr. Hazelton and the joint request of New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Public Service Company of New Hampshire to adjust the franchise territory in Chester is hereby GRANTED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that NHEC shall cause a copy of the summary 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 August 16, 2013 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before August 30, 2013; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this Order *Nisi* be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states


the reason and basis for a hearing no later than August 23, 2013 for the Commission's consideration; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than August 30, 2013; and it is

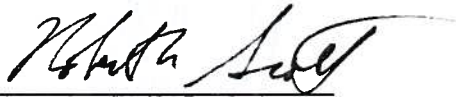
FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order *Nisi* shall be effective September 5, 2013, unless NHEC fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, NHEC shall file an updated franchise map within 30 days of the date of this order *nisi*.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventh day of August, 2013.

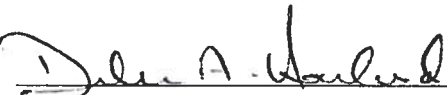


Michael D. Harrington
Commissioner



Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

Attested by:



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director