

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DE 14-044**

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

**Joint Petition to Alter Franchise Areas in Deerfield, New Hampshire**

**Order *Nisi* Approving Franchise Boundary Change**

**ORDER NO. 25,644**

**March 28, 2014**

On February 7, 2014, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) and Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) (collectively, Joint Petitioners) filed a petition to alter their franchise areas in Deerfield, New Hampshire, to allow NHEC to serve all lots in the Forest Glen subdivision located on Hartford Brook Road. The Joint Petitioners attached a map of the relevant area and a copy of the Forest Glen subdivision map to the petition. The petition 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/2014/14-044.html>.

The petition states that the utilities received a request from Mr. Jeff White of the Tukcor Real Estate & Development Company to have NHEC provide electric service to all of the lots in the Forest Glen subdivision located on Hartford Brook Road in Deerfield. According to the Petition, NHEC and PSNH jointly agreed that the public interest would best be served by an amendment of their respective franchise areas in the location of Hartford Brook Road (Site) to provide the relief requested by Mr. White. The requested relief is authorized under RSA 374:22

and RSA 374:26, although NHEC and PSNH both recognize that RSA 374:22 does not apply to NHEC, pursuant to RSA 362:2.

While NHEC and PSNH each serve portions of Deerfield, and a portion of the Site is located in what would otherwise be PSNH's service territory, NHEC's existing distribution facilities are located substantially closer to the Site than any existing PSNH facilities. Mr. White, NHEC and PSNH recognize that, due to the specific physical location of the Site, the extension of electric utility distribution services to the Site from NHEC's nearby facilities along Hartford Brook Road is substantially less costly than the construction of a longer extension, which would be required if service were provided from PSNH's existing facilities along South Road.

The Joint Petitioners agree that it is uncertain where future development, if any, along the southeast portion of Hartford Brook Road might occur. In light of the circumstances related to the Site, however, they agreed to accommodate Mr. White's request and place the Site within NHEC's franchise area, without otherwise altering the border between their respective franchise areas in Deerfield. According to the Joint Petitioners, Mr. White agrees with these arrangements. The Joint Petitioners requested that the relief be granted without hearing as provided in RSA 374:26.

Staff filed a memorandum on March 13, 2014, with its recommendation. Staff stated that it had reviewed the petition and recommended that the Commission grant the joint petition of NHEC and PSNH to alter the franchise territory in Deerfield to allow NHEC to serve the Site at Hartford Brook Road.

We have reviewed the Joint Petition 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 in the franchise areas of NHEC and PSNH to allow NHEC to service the Site from NHEC's existing distribution facilities. 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 both NHEC and PSNH to update franchise maps consistent with this approved change.

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

**ORDERED *NISI***, that subject to the effective date below, the joint petition of New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Public Service Company of New Hampshire to adjust their franchise territories in Deerfield, New Hampshire is hereby GRANTED; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the NHEC shall cause a copy of the summary 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 April 9, 2014 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before April 29, 2014; and it is

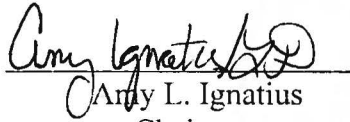
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that all persons interested in responding to this Order *Nisi* be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than April 16, 2014 for the Commission's consideration; and it is

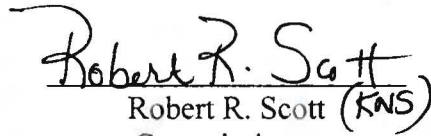
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than April 23, 2014; and it is

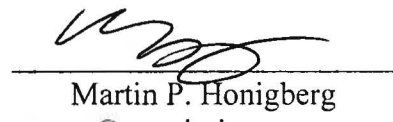
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that this Order *Nisi* shall be effective April 29, 2014, unless the Petitioner fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that NHEC and PSNH shall file updated franchise maps noting the approved change within 30 days of the effective date of this order *nisi*.

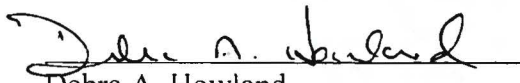
By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-eighth day of March, 2014.

  
Amy L. Ignatius  
Chairman

  
Robert R. Scott (KNS)  
Commissioner

  
Martin P. Honigberg  
Commissioner

Attested by:

  
Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director