

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 14-150

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

Joint Petition to Alter Franchise Areas in Chester, New Hampshire

Order *Nisi* Approving Franchise Boundary Change

ORDER NO. 25,717

September 15, 2014

In this order *nisi*, the Commission approves a joint petition to modify the franchise boundaries of NHEC and PSNH in Chester, New Hampshire. The boundary change applies to four lots on Gladys Nicole Lane in Chester. The approval is not effective until October 15, 2014, to allow any interested party the opportunity to submit comments or request a hearing.

On June 3, 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 territories in Chester, New Hampshire, to allow NHEC to serve four lots on Gladys Nicole Lane off Orcutt Drive (Site). The Joint Petitioners attached a map of the relevant area that depicts the current franchise boundary and the proposed change. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2014/14-150>.

The petition states that the utilities received a request from Michael Oleson to have NHEC provide electric service to the Site. According to the petition, the Joint Petitioners agreed

that the public interest would best be served by an amendment of their respective franchise areas to provide the service as requested by Mr. Oleson. The franchise territory alteration is authorized under RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26, although NHEC and PSNH both recognize that RSA 372:22 does not apply to NHEC pursuant to RSA 362:2.

NHEC and PSNH each serve portions of Chester. The Site is located in what would otherwise be PSNH's service territory, but NHEC's existing distribution facilities are located substantially closer to the Site than any existing PSNH facilities. The Joint Petitioners and Mr. Oleson recognize that the extension of electric utility distribution services to the Site from NHEC's nearby facilities along Orcutt Drive is substantially less costly than the construction of the longer extension that would be required if service were provided from PSNH's existing facilities along Route 121/Chester Street.

The Joint Petitioners agree that it is uncertain where future development along the southern portion of Orcutt Drive might occur. In light of the specific circumstances related to the Site, however, the Joint Petitioners have agreed to accommodate Mr. Oleson's request and place the Site within NHEC's franchise area without otherwise altering the border between their respective franchise areas in Chester. According to the petition, Mr. Oleson has agreed with these arrangements. The Joint Petitioners ask that the relief be granted without a hearing as provided in RSA 374:26.

Commission Staff (Staff) filed a memorandum on August 26, 2014, which recommended that the Commission approve the requested alteration to the two utility franchise areas.

We have reviewed the Joint Petition and Staff's recommendation. Pursuant to RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26, 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, effective October 15, 2014, 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 Chester, New Hampshire is hereby GRANTED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the 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 September 25, 2014, and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before October 10, 2014; and it is

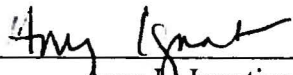
FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this Order *Nisi* be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than October 1, 2014, for the Commission's consideration; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than October 8, 2014; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order *Nisi* shall be effective October 15, 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, 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 fifteenth day of September, 2014.



Amy L. Ignatius
Chairman

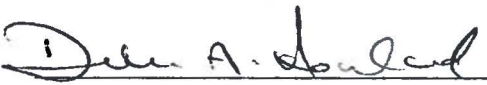


Robert R. Scott
Commissioner



Martin P. Honigberg
Commissioner

Attested by:



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director