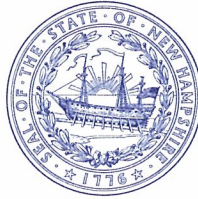


THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHAIRMAN
Thomas B. Getz

COMMISSIONERS
Graham J. Morrison
Clifton C. Below

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND SECRETARY
Debra A. Howland



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX (603) 271-3878

TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

March 25, 2009

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301



Re: Docket No. DE 09-033
Public Service Company of New Hampshire
Petition for Increase in Short Term Debt Limit and to Issue Long Term Debt
Report on Technical Session—Proposed Procedural Schedule

Dear Ms. Howland:

On February 20, 2009, Public Service Company of New Hampshire filed a petition requesting various financial approvals including an increase to its authorized short-term debt limit and authority to issue long-term debt. The Commission issued an Order of Notice on March 6, 2008 scheduling a prehearing conference for March 24, 2009. The Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a letter with the Commission on March 10, 2009 indicating that it would be participating in this docket on behalf of residential ratepayers. On March 19, 2009, Granite State Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid) and the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) each filed a petition to intervene. PSNH filed an objection to CLF's petition on March 24, 2009.

CLF failed to appear at the prehearing conference. The Chairman stated a need for information concerning whether any of CLF's members are customers of PSNH before ruling on its petition to intervene. There were no objections to the petition to intervene filed by National Grid.

Following the prehearing conference, Staff, PSNH and the OCA met in technical session to begin discovery and to establish a proposed procedural schedule. Consistent with its statement at the prehearing conference, the OCA maintained that it believes that in its review the Commission must find that the use of the funds is in the public interest. Specifically, the OCA believes that the Commission should conduct an "Easton"-style review. *See* RSA 369:1 *et seq.* and *Appeal of Roger Easton*, 125 N.H. 205 (1984).

PSNH asserted that the instant filing was no different than similar petitions filed in the past five years and disagreed with broadening the scope of the proceeding.

Due to the disagreement on scope, the Staff, PSNH and the OCA agreed to a procedural schedule which includes an opportunity for the filing of briefs addressing the appropriate scope of the proceeding. The proposed procedural schedule can be modified, if necessary, depending on the Commission's determination on scope. We may hold additional meetings to discuss settlement.

The proposed procedural schedule is as follows:

March 27, 2009	Data Requests to PSNH
April 3, 2009	Responses Due
April 10, 2009	Briefs Due on Issue of Scope
April 17, 2009	2 nd Set of Data Requests
April 24, 2009	Responses Due
May 1, 2009	Technical Session
May 15, 2009	Staff/Intervenor Testimony
May 22, 2009	Discovery on Testimony
June 1, 2009	Responses Due on Discovery
June 10, 2009	Hearing on the Merits.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Please let me know if you have any questions.

I certify that an electronic copy of this letter was served on the parties at the time of its filing with the Commission.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Amidon
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner

Service List