

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

DE 11-082

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Request to Recover Wind Storm Costs and Incremental Cost of
Marketing Renewable Service Option and Request to Modify Deadline for
Filing Executive Compensation Reports**

ORDER OF NOTICE

On April 15, 2011, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a request, with a supporting technical statement and schedules, to recover through rates the net storm restoration costs incurred by PSNH during the wind storm of February 2010. PSNH proposes to increase distribution rates on July 1, 2011 by \$3,056,000 which will provide a four-year recovery period for the storm costs that are estimated to be \$12,225,000.

During PSNH's last general rate case, Docket No. DE 09-035, the costs of the February 2010 windstorm were unknown. As provided by Section 7.3 of a Settlement Agreement approved by Commission in Order No. 25,123 (June 28, 2010) PSNH met with the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) and Staff when the costs were known. PSNH stated the OCA and Staff agreed, without taking a position on the merits, that PSNH would make this request in the instant filing.

On April 29, 2010, PSNH filed a separate request with supporting testimony for relief as follows. First, PSNH requested authorization to recover through distribution rates, effective July 1, 2011, the incremental cost of marketing and promoting PSNH's renewable default energy service. In Order No. 25,080 (March 5, 2010) in Docket No. DE 09-186, the Commission approved a partial settlement agreement which provided that PSNH may request the recovery of

the incremental marketing costs associated with promoting the renewable default service rate through distribution rates. PSNH estimates that for the first year of the program incremental marketing costs for which it seeks recovery total \$72,717.

Second, PSNH requested a modification of the portion of Order No. 25,123 in Docket No. DE 09-035 that established a date and time frame for PSNH's annual reports on executive compensation. The Commission ordered PSNH to file the reports on or before August 1 of each year for the preceding fiscal year ending June 30. In its most recent report filed on April 26, 2011, PSNH noted the reporting difficulties that would be encountered resulting from the requirement to report the information on a split year basis (June 30) rather than on a calendar year basis (December 31). PSNH stated that the parties and Staff discussed this requirement and agreed that the report could be filed on a calendar year basis rather than a fiscal year basis, and that the filing deadline would be accelerated to April 30 of each year. PSNH requests that the Commission approve this agreement among the parties and Staff and modify Order No. 25,123 accordingly.

The petition 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/Docketbk/2011/11-082.html>.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the estimated costs associated with the February 2010 wind storm are reasonable and whether the recovery of such costs results in just and reasonable rates pursuant to RSA 378:5 and 8; whether the incremental costs for marketing PSNH's renewable default service energy program are reasonable and whether the recovery of such costs results in just and reasonable rates pursuant to RSA 378:5 and 8; and

whether it is in the public interest to modify Order No. 25,123 as requested by PSNH. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Hearing, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on June 23, 2011 at 2:30 p.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, PSNH shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than May 19, 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 June 23, 2011; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code 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 PSNH and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before June 20, 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. Code 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 June 23, 2011.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this tenth day of May,
2011.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Debra A. Howland", is written over a horizontal line.

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.