

DM 03-196

Request to Waive Certain Reporting Requirements

Order Clarifying Process for the Implementation of Electronic Filing

O R D E R N O. 24,253

December 19, 2003

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On October 24, 2003, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued Order No. 24,223, waiving certain reporting requirements and initiating a process to implement electronic filing of certain reports. The Commission appended to the Order two lists of reports that would be eligible for electronic filing: Appendix A which identifies reports required by Commission rule and Appendix B which identifies reports required by Commission order.

On November 7, 2003, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) submitted comments to Order No. 24,223. OCA requested that the Commission clarify that Order No. 24,223 did not affect the continuing obligations of utilities to file reports with the OCA to the extent that such reports were previously filed with the OCA continue to be filed with the Commission.

On November 10, 2003, Granite State Electric Company (GSEC) submitted comments noting errors in Appendices A and B, and Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) also submitted comments regarding the difficulty with filing electronic versions

of certain reports, availability of certain reports by other electronic means, and offering certain corrections to Appendix B.

On November 25, 2003, Commission Staff (Staff) submitted a letter to the Commission requesting additional time to file a schedule for implementation of electronic filing. On December 2, 2003, the Commission by Secretarial Letter extended Staff's deadline to December 10, 2003, and Staff submitted a Paper Reduction Software Deployment Tasks and Schedule on that date.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

We concur with the comments provided by the OCA. Neither the requirements of Order No. 24,223 nor the implementation of electronic filing with the Commission obviates the existing and ongoing requirements of utilities to file certain reports with the OCA, except to the extent such reports are no longer required to be filed with the Commission. Those utilities with obligations to file reports with the OCA must continue to meet such obligations, except to the extent such reports are no longer required to be filed with the Commission. In addition, all such reports must be submitted to the OCA in the same format as provided to the Commission.

We appreciate the comments of GSEC and PSNH regarding the need to correct and maintain the accuracy of Appendices A and B. We intend the Appendices to be subject to change not only for

the purposes of correction but also for purposes of deleting discontinued reports, including any new reporting requirements that result from order of the Commission or by rule promulgated by the Commission pursuant to RSA 541-A. Therefore, we find it appropriate to delegate authority to the Executive Director to make such corrections, deletions or additions to Appendices A and B by Secretarial Letter.

We have reviewed the Paper Reduction Software Deployment Tasks and Schedule (Task Schedule) submitted by Staff and find the recommendations to be sound. We understand that the Executive Director must exercise discretion in managing the project. We will not require the Executive Director to formally notify us of adjustments to the Task Schedule which affect internal Staff deadlines, so long as the dates regarding public participation are observed.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Order No. 24,233 is clarified as set forth herein; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission hereby delegates authority to the Executive Director to make such corrections, deletions and additions to Appendices A and B to Order No. 24,223 as may be appropriate; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Executive Director will make such corrections, deletions and additions by Secretarial Letter;

and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Executive Director shall notify the Commission of any proposed change to the Task Schedule which affects public participation in electronic filing.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this nineteenth day of December, 2003.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Graham J. Morrison
Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary