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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

January 28, 2010 - 10:27 a.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

NHPUC FEB11'10 AM 9:43

RE: DE 09-225
GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC COMPANY
d/b/a NATIONAL GRID:
GreenUp Service Proposal.
(Prehearing conference)

PRESENT: Commissioner Amy L. Ignatius, Presiding

Jody Carmody, Clerk

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Granite State Electric Company
d/b/a National Grid:
Sarah B. Knowlton, Esq. (McLane, Graf...)

Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:
Kenneth E. Traum, Asst. Consumer Advocate
Office of Consumer Advocate

Reptg. PUC Staff:
Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.

Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

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P R O C E E D I N G

CMSR. IGNATIUS: I would like to open the record in docket DE 09-225, which is Granite State Electric Company, doing business as National Grid's petition for approval of a GreenUp proposal. On November 13th, 2009, Granite State Electric Company filed a request for approval of a new Renewable Default Service Rate Option, GreenUp Service proposal, pursuant to RSA 374-F:3, Section V(f). An optional tariff-based offering for residential and small commercial/industrial customers to select participating GreenUp suppliers' service.

So, with that, let me open -- I mean, ask for appearances.

MS. KNOWLTON: Good morning, Commissioner Ignatius. My name is Sarah Knowlton. I'm here on behalf of Granite State Electric Company. And, with me today is Juliana Griffiths, who is one of the Company witnesses in the proceeding.

CMSR. IGNATIUS: Good morning.

MS. GRIFFITHS: Good morning.

MR. TRAUM: Good morning, Commissioner. Representing the Office of Consumer Advocate, Kenneth Traum. And, I anticipate that Attorney Hatfield will be joining me when she can return from the Legislature.

1 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Thank you.

2 MS. AMIDON: Good morning. Suzanne
3 Amidon, for Commission Staff. And, with me today is
4 Al-Azad Iqbal, who is an analyst with the Electric
5 Division.

6 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Good morning. I look
7 in the file and do not see any sign of interventions from
8 anyone. Anyone aware of any other interested parties?

9 (No verbal response)

10 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Looks like not. And,
11 is there an affidavit of publication to be filed?

12 MS. KNOWLTON: There is. I will get it
13 to the Commission when I get back to the office. I know
14 it was published on the 20th, I did get confirmation from
15 the Union Leader. And, I apologize, I don't have the
16 affidavit with me at the moment.

17 CMSR. IGNATIUS: All right. So, if you
18 can submit that for the record, we'd appreciate that.

19 MS. KNOWLTON: Yes.

20 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Are there any other
21 procedural matters before we take initial statements?

22 (No verbal response)

23 CMSR. IGNATIUS: If not, Ms. Knowlton.

24 MS. KNOWLTON: Good morning. The

1 Company is very pleased to be submitting its GreenUp
2 proposal to the Commission for its consideration. The
3 proposal that the Company has submitted is a program that
4 the Company currently offers in Rhode Island and in
5 Massachusetts. So, it's a program that the Company has
6 experience administering, and very much would like to
7 offer the same program to its customers in New Hampshire.

8 As set forth in the testimony of
9 Mr. White and Ms. Griffiths, the program will work
10 essentially by the Company would line up suppliers who
11 would obtain Renewable Energy Certificates that customers
12 could voluntarily choose to purchase, customers who take
13 Default Service. And, so, the Company would be really
14 sort of in an administrative go-between role. They would
15 be educating the customers about the availability of the
16 program, but the customers would decide on their own
17 whether they wanted to participate and buy these
18 certificates, and then make payment for them, it will be
19 through the bill.

20 But that's the essential elements of the
21 program. I mean, the Company, obviously, would, if the
22 Commission approves the program, they would have a bill
23 insert that would explain the nature of the details of the
24 program. And, because this is a program that's up and

1 running in two other jurisdictions in which the Company's
2 affiliates do business, you know, all of that information
3 already exists, as far as bill inserts that they have used
4 in other states.

5 So, you know, the Company, you know,
6 looks forward to working with the Staff and others, the
7 OCA, in this docket to provide any other information which
8 is necessary to further explain the nature of the
9 proposal. And, then, you know, looks forward to working
10 with the Commission on the implementation of it through
11 approval of any bill insert that goes on and necessary
12 tariff changes.

13 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Thank you. Mr. Traum.

14 MR. TRAUM: Thank you. The OCA is
15 supportive of giving customers the opportunity and the
16 information needed to acquire renewable green power as
17 cost-effectively and simply as possible. That said, we
18 appreciate the Company's filing and plan to actively
19 participate in this docket.

20 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Thank you. Ms. Amidon.

21 MS. AMIDON: Thank you. As Commissioner
22 Ignatius knows, we have different proposals before us
23 today. Earlier Unutil presented its option, which it will
24 administer itself and it will allow customers to select

1 certain tiers of participation in the Renewable Service
2 Option. National Grid has come today with a slightly
3 different proposal, in the sense that they will be
4 offering the Renewable Service Option to customers by
5 directing them to competitive suppliers of Renewable
6 Energy Certificates.

7 In addition, I believe that there's one
8 common element, and Attorney Knowlton can correct me if I
9 read the filing wrong, between Unitil and Grid, in that
10 they do not intend to offer this to the large commercial
11 customers who are taking Default Service?

12 MS. KNOWLTON: Yes. That is correct.

13 MS. AMIDON: So, and this -- and that is
14 an element that is different from the proposal that PSNH
15 made, which allows any customer taking Default Service
16 from the Company to select a Renewable Service Option.
17 So, we will be looking at the different character of this
18 program, and also this element of not including large
19 customers, when we review the proposal that's offered
20 today. Thank you.

21 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Thank you. And, I
22 understand you're having a joint technical session after
23 this to work on both the Unitil and the National Grid
24 proposals?

1 MS. AMIDON: That's correct.

2 MS. KNOWLTON: Yes.

3 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Good. Thank you. If
4 there's nothing further, let me just make a couple of
5 comments. In going through the hearings with PSNH
6 recently, it was helpful to have as up-to-date as possible
7 projected costs, with the understanding that they weren't
8 final and could change yet again, but illustrative costs
9 as part of the record, if things have changed between now,
10 before the time of the filing, and the date of the
11 hearing. And, I also would encourage the Company to look
12 at the transcript of that PSNH hearing. Because, during
13 the hearing, we went through the proposal, but we also
14 explored a lot of other ideas on program design, because
15 it's something that's really new to all of us. And, so,
16 that may be helpful as well to think about.

17 Anything further?

18 (No verbal response)

19 CMSR. IGNATIUS: If not, I take it
20 you'll, in the technical session, emerge with a procedural
21 schedule for this docket, as well as the other?

22 MS. AMIDON: Yes. And, I'll be filing a
23 report with the Commission on the results of the technical
24 session and the proposed procedural schedules.

1 CMSR. IGNATIUS: Thank you. I
2 appreciate that. And, I'll close the prehearing and take
3 the matter under advisement.

4 (Whereupon the prehearing conference
5 ended at 10:35 a.m. and the parties and
6 Staff convened a joint technical session
7 thereafter.)
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