STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONSUMER ADVOCATE Susan W. Chamberlin, Esq.

ASSISTANT CONSUMER ADVOCATE Rorie E.P. Hollenberg, Esq.

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

Tel. (603) 271-1172

Website: www.oca.nh.gov

OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 18

Concord, NH 03301-2429

November 20, 2012

NHPUC NOV20'12 PM 3:56

Debra Howland Executive Director & Secretary New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, New Hampshire 03301-7319

RE: DE 12-307 Petition of Jim Snyder re: PSNH's Line Extension Policy

Dear Ms. Howland:

On November 16, 2012, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a Motion to Dismiss, in the above-captioned proceeding.

Previously, in the 2008 Docket No. DE 08-13, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) held that "PSNH was required to examine its line extension policy and the level of subsidization that existed between new customers and existing customers." Re PSNH 94 NHPUC 673 (2009). In this proceeding, the parties analyzed cost data for line extensions to determine a means of reducing subsidies between customers. The parties reached a settlement agreement which was submitted to the Commission for review. The Commission determined that "eliminating the subsidy of current customers for new line extensions, and requiring new customers to pay the actual cost of such service, is reasonable and in the public interest…" Id. at 678.

It appears that no new issues are raised by Mr. Snyder's Petition that were not considered in Docket No. DE 08-135. Also, there appears to be no unforeseen or extenuating circumstances that would warrant making an exception to the policy, which might exist if, for example, the cost of the line extension is grossly disproportionate to the value of the real estate, or a housing development plan shows new home construction on the same line to be imminent.

In light of these conclusions, the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) does not object to PSNH's Motion to Dismiss. In reaching this conclusion, the OCA reviewed the following documents:

- 1. Petition filed by residential customer, Jim Snyder (October 9, 2012);
- 2. Memo of Commission Staff to Commissioners (October 19, 2012);
- 3. PSNH Correspondence to Mr. Snyder (August 22, 2012) including flat rate billing data;
- 4. Order of Notice, Docket No. DE 08-135 (November 26, 2008);
- 5. Settlement Agreement, Docket No. DE 08-135 (September 18, 2009); and
- 6. Order Approving Settlement Agreement, Docket No. DE 08-135 (November 20, 2009).

Respectfully,

Susan W. Chamberlin Consumer Advocate

cc: DE 08-135 service list electronically only