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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

October 5, 2006 - 2:06 p.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

RE: DE 06-125
PUBLIC SERVICE CO. OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:
Proposed Default Energy Services and
Default Energy Service Rate.
(Prehearing conference)

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas B. Getz, Presiding
Commissioner Graham J. Morrison
Commissioner Clifton C. Below

Christine True, Clerk

APPEARANCES: **Reptg. Public Service Co. of New Hampshire:**
Gerald M. Eaton, Esq.

Reptg. Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.:
Steven V. Camerino, Esq.

Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:
Meredith A. Hatfield, Esq., Consumer Advocate
Kenneth E. Traum, Asst. Consumer Advocate
Michael W. Holmes, Esq.
Office of Consumer Advocate

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

Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, CCR

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Okay. Good afternoon.
3 We'll open the prehearing conference in docket DE 06-125.
4 On September 8, 2006, Public Service Company of New
5 Hampshire filed with the Commission a petition to
6 establish its Default Energy Service rate for bills
7 rendered on or after January 1, 2007. PSNH currently
8 estimates an Energy Service rate of 0.0894 cents per
9 kilowatt-hour for effect on January 1, which would reflect
10 an average increase of 5.7 percent to overall rates.

11 An order of notice was issued on
12 September 20 setting the prehearing conference for this
13 afternoon. Can we take appearances please.

14 **MR. EATON:** For Public Service Company
15 of New Hampshire, my name is Gerald M. Eaton. Good
16 afternoon.

17 **CMSR. MORRISON:** Good afternoon.

18 **CMSR. BELOW:** Good afternoon.

19 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Good afternoon.

20 **MR. CAMERINO:** Good afternoon,
21 Commissioners. Steve Camerino, from McLane, Graf,
22 Raulerson & Middleton, on behalf of Constellation
23 NewEnergy, Inc.

24 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Good afternoon.

1 **CMSR. MORRISON:** Good afternoon.

2 **CMSR. BELOW:** Good afternoon.

3 **MS. HATFIELD:** Good afternoon,
4 Commissioners. Meredith Hatfield, for the Office of
5 Consumer Advocate. And, with me today is Ken Traum,
6 Assistant Consumer Advocate, and Mike Holmes, who is a
7 consultant for our office.

8 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Good afternoon.

9 **CMSR. MORRISON:** Good afternoon.

10 **CMSR. BELOW:** Good afternoon.

11 **MR. HOLMES:** Good afternoon.

12 **MR. AMIDON:** Good afternoon. Suzanne
13 Amidon, for the Commission Staff. And, with me today is
14 Steve Mullen, who is a Utility Analyst in the Electric
15 Division. Thank you.

16 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Good afternoon.

17 **CMSR. MORRISON:** Good afternoon.

18 **CMSR. BELOW:** Good afternoon.

19 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Anything that we need to
20 address beyond noting that the affidavit of publication --
21 whoops, wrong file.

22 **MR. EATON:** Mr. Chairman, we did not
23 receive a mailed copy of the affidavit of publication,
24 although the Union Leader informed us that they had sent

1 us that. So, I provided the Clerk with a facsimile copy
2 of the affidavit, and we will file the affidavit in the
3 original form with the Commission. But the publication
4 did take place on time.

5 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Okay. Thank you. Well,
6 is there any objection then to the Petition to Intervene
7 by Constellation?

8 **MR. EATON:** No.

9 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Okay. Hearing no
10 objection, and recognizing that Constellation has
11 demonstrated rights, duties, privileges or other interests
12 affected by this proceeding, we'll grant the Petition to
13 Intervene. Can we --

14 **MR. AMIDON:** Mr. Chairman, the Consumer
15 Advocate informed me that James Rodier also filed a motion
16 to intervene. Staff doesn't have a copy of that, but I
17 just wanted to bring that to your attention.

18 **CMSR. MORRISON:** I don't have a copy
19 either.

20 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Do you have a copy, Ms.
21 Hatfield?

22 **MS. HATFIELD:** I'm sorry, I don't think
23 we have it with us.

24 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Okay. Well, we'll deal

1 with that petition when we see the petition. Are there
2 any other matters, before we hear a statement of the
3 positions from the parties?

4 (No verbal response)

5 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Okay. Hearing nothing,
6 then, Mr. Eaton

7 **MR. EATON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Public Service Company filed testimony and exhibits
9 projecting a Default Energy Service rate beginning on
10 January 1st. We are moving to a calendar year basis for
11 the Default Energy Service Charge. What we have projected
12 was a rate of 8.94 cents per kilowatt-hour. However, in
13 past proceedings, we have updated that estimate with
14 current market data, in order to provide a better estimate
15 for the hearing, and that will be provided before the
16 hearing in December.

17 Mr. Hall has submitted some testimony
18 based upon a request from the Commission in a previous
19 order on an anti-gaming aspect of the Default Energy
20 Service Charge, and that will be part of the proceeding as
21 well. But, other than that, this is a case that's quite
22 similar to previous filings that PSNH has done in the
23 past.

24 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Thank you. Mr.

1 Camerino.

2 **MR. CAMERINO:** Mr. Chairman,
3 Constellation takes no position at this time.

4 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Ms. Hatfield.

5 **MS. HATFIELD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Right before this hearing, the Office of Consumer Advocate
7 distributed data requests to the parties and Staff. And,
8 I would just note that the key thing that we'll be
9 focussing on in this particular case is the issue of the
10 anti-gaming proposal that the Company has put forward.

11 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Thank you. Ms. Amidon.

12 **MR. AMIDON:** Thank you. Staff has also
13 begun to prepare discovery, and we have not taken a
14 position either on the proposed Energy Service rate or on
15 the anti-gaming provision at this time.

16 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Okay. Then, is there
17 anything else that we need to address this afternoon?

18 (No verbal response)

19 **CHAIRMAN GETZ:** Well, then, hearing
20 nothing, we will close the prehearing conference in
21 06-125, await for a recommendation of the parties, and
22 take the matter under advisement.

23 **(Whereupon the prehearing conference**
24 **ended at 2:12 p.m.)**