THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DE 07-125

ORDER OF NOTICE

On November 20, 2007, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a petition, supporting testimony and related documents for approval of two power purchase agreements, one with Pinetree Power, Inc., a 15 megawatt (MW) wood-fired power plant located in Bethlehem, NH and the other with Pinetree Power-Tamworth, Inc., a 20 MW wood-fired power plant located in Tamworth, New Hampshire. The term of the agreement with the Bethlehem facility is from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010, while the agreement with the Tamworth facility runs from April 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010. Both power purchase agreements involve the purchase of energy, capacity and New Hampshire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). PSNH states in the petition that beginning in 2008 it must obtain and retire certain RECs pursuant to New Hampshire's Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard, N.H. RSA 362-F. PSNH seeks Commission approval of the agreements pursuant to RSA 362-F:9 which states, in part,

Upon the request of one or more electric distribution companies and after notice and hearing, the commission may authorize such company or companies to enter into multi-year purchase agreements with renewable energy sources for certificates, in conjunction with or independent of purchased power agreements from such sources, to meet reasonably projected renewable portfolio requirements and default service needs to the extent of such requirements, if it finds such agreements or such an approach, as may be conditioned by the commission, to be in the public interest.

The filing raises, <u>inter alia</u>, issues related to the terms and conditions of the purchase agreements, how the costs of the agreements will be recovered, and whether the agreements meet the requirements of RSA 362-F:9 and are in the public interest.

Each party to this proceeding has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a prehearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on January 31, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the prehearing conference, PSNH, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a technical session to review the petition and allow PSNH to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. 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 December 28, 2007, 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 January 31, 2008; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. 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 January 28, 2008, 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. 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 January 31, 2008.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighteenth day of December, 2007.

Debra A. Howland

Executive Director & Secretary

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.