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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

October 6, 2008 - 1:00 p.m.  
Concord, New Hampshire

NHPUC OCT27'08 PM 1:46

RE: DE 08-114  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:  
Petition for Adjustment of Stranded Cost  
Recovery Charge. (Prehearing conference)

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

Connie Fillion, Clerk

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

Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:  
Meredith Hatfield, Esq., Consumer Advocate  
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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I N D E X

PAGE NO.

STATEMENTS OF PRELIMINARY POSITION BY:

Mr. Eaton	4
Ms. Hatfield	5
Ms. Amidon	5

**P R O C E E D I N G S**

1  
2 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Good afternoon. We'll  
3 open the prehearing conference in docket 08-114. On  
4 September 12, 2008, Public Service Company of New  
5 Hampshire filed a petition for adjustment of its Stranded  
6 Cost Recovery Charge. PSNH is seeking to adjust the  
7 current SCRC rate of 0.65 cents per kilowatt-hour,  
8 beginning with service rendered on and after January 1,  
9 2009, to an estimated 0.9 cents per kilowatt-hour. And,  
10 note that we have a letter of participation from the  
11 Office of Consumer Advocate, and that the affidavit of  
12 publication has been filed.

13 And, we'll take appearances please.

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

17 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Good afternoon.

18 CMSR. BELOW: Good afternoon.

19 MS. HATFIELD: Good afternoon,  
20 Commissioners. Meredith Hatfield, for the Office of  
21 Consumer Advocate, on behalf of residential ratepayers,  
22 and with me is Ken Traum.

23 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Good afternoon.

24 CMSR. BELOW: Good afternoon.

1 MS. AMIDON: Good afternoon. Suzanne  
2 Amidon, for the Commission Staff, and with me today is  
3 Steve Mullen, who is the Assistant Director of the  
4 Electric Division.

5 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Good afternoon.

6 CMSR. BELOW: Good afternoon.

7 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Mr. Eaton, an  
8 opportunity to briefly state the Company's position.

9 MR. EATON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
10 The filing represents an increase from the rate that's  
11 currently in effect. And, this increase reflects the  
12 expiration of some credits that were applied in 2008.  
13 Another reason for the increase is PSNH is proposing to  
14 collect the settlement amount in the Hemphill case, which  
15 is in a different docket, but the amount that PSNH is  
16 proposing to collect is above the short-term rate that was  
17 already paid to Hemphill, and the short-term rate reflects  
18 the New Hampshire specific hourly load price. Therefore,  
19 we think it's properly collected through Part 2 stranded  
20 costs, which is the above-market costs of power paid to  
21 small power producers.

22 So, with those two differences outlined,  
23 the Stranded Cost Recovery Charge is otherwise about the  
24 same as the Commission has seen in previous proceedings.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you.

3 Ms. Hatfield.

4 MS. HATFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
5 The OCA does not have a position at this time. But we  
6 will work with the Company and with Staff through  
7 discovery in preparation for the final hearing.

8 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Ms. Amidon.

9 MS. AMIDON: Thank you. Staff has  
10 recognized what Attorney Eaton referred to, which is that  
11 the settlement amounts for the Hemphill rate order  
12 constitute about \$3 million of the increase in the SCRC  
13 for 2009. Staff has conducted discovery of that agreement  
14 in a separate docket, which is Docket Number DE 07-122.  
15 But we will be reviewing the Hemphill costs in connection  
16 with this docket, and we'll make a recommendation to the  
17 Commission at a later point.

18 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Thank you. Just off the  
19 record for a second, Steve.

20 (Brief off-the-record discussion  
21 ensued.)

22 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Back on the  
23 record. Okay. Then, we will close the prehearing  
24 conference and take the matter under advisement. See you

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shortly. Thank you.

(Whereupon the prehearing conference  
ended at 1:14 p.m.)