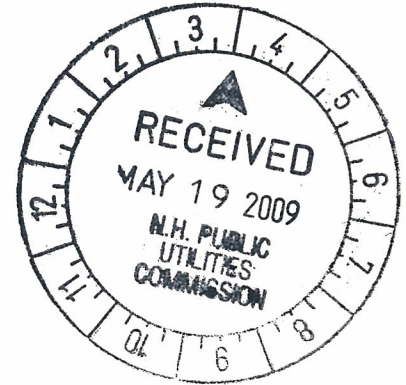




May 19, 2009

Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director and Secretary  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
23 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429

Re: DE 09-035, Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
Distribution Service Rate Proceeding



Dear Ms. Howland:

Public Service Company of New Hampshire (“PSNH”) filed a Petition for Temporary Rates on April 17, 2009. The Commission issued an Order of Notice on April 30, 2009 to be published by PSNH on or before May 6, 2009. The Order of Notice scheduled a Pre-hearing Conference for May 13, 2009 and a hearing on the merits for June 16, 2009. The Order of Notice was not published by PSNH before the Pre-hearing Conference.

The Chairman opened the record on May 13, 2009, but did not continue the pre-hearing conference for lack of notice. After the pre-hearing conference was closed, representatives of the Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”), the Staff of the Commission (“Staff”) and PSNH discussed the procedural status of the temporary rates and the permanent rate filing. As a result of those discussions, the Staff and PSNH recommend that the Commission issue a supplemental Order of Notice rescheduling the Pre-hearing Conference on temporary rates for June 10, 2009 at 10:00 AM and reschedule the hearing on the merits on temporary rates for July 13, 2009 at 10:00 AM. Staff has informed me that these dates are available on the Commission’s calendar. In light of this suggested schedule, PSNH hereby revises its request so that temporary rates would be effective on August 1, 2009.

PSNH will file its Notice of Intent pursuant to Puc § 1604.05 on or before June 1, 2009 and its full tariff filing on or before July 1, 2009. The Staff and PSNH recommend that after the full tariff filing the Commission issue a further Order of Notice that identifies the issues raised in the tariff filing and convene a Pre-hearing Conference in the permanent rate phase of this proceeding. The Staff and PSNH further recommend that the deadline for intervention requests remain open in this proceeding until the pre-hearing conference in the permanent rate phase of the proceeding.

The first proposed effective date for PSNH's temporary rates was designed to coincide with changes expected July 1, 2009 to the Energy Service ("ES") rate, Stranded Cost Recovery Charge ("SCRC") and the Transmission Cost Recovery Mechanism ("TCAM"). The Staff and PSNH agree and recommend that those changes should be delayed until August 1, 2009 to allow for rate continuity. Delaying the ES, SCRC and TCAM rate changes from July 1 to August 1 is not expected to negatively impact customers overall. These rates are fully reconcilable; therefore, other than timing, any change to the effective dates of those rates has no impact on customers. Approval of this recommendation will not have any effect on the level of PSNH's temporary rate request.

The OCA believes that under the statutory scheme for rate changes (RSA 378:27 et seq.), temporary rates should be considered in the context of a permanent rate case filing, which the company has not yet filed. However, the OCA has agreed that if PSNH withdraws its memorandum on these issues filed on May 13, 2009, it will not object to this process at this time, without precedent. If the changes in procedure requested herein are accepted, PSNH agrees to withdraw its memorandum filed on May 13, 2009.

Timely publication of the Order of Notice is ultimately my responsibility. I apologize on behalf of PSNH for any inconvenience or disruption this may have caused the Commission, its Staff or the OCA. Electronic copies of this letter have been provided to the persons on the attached service list.

Very truly yours,



Gerald M. Eaton  
Senior Counsel

cc: Service List

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**Docket DE 09-035**

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