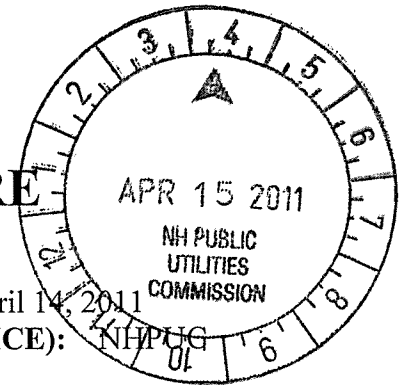


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication



DATE: April 14, 2011

AT (OFFICE): NH PUC
01

FROM: Thomas C. Frantz *TF*
Director, Electric Division

SUBJECT: Docket No. DE 11-074
Public Service Company of New Hampshire
Request for Waiver of Puc 305.03, Test Schedule for Watt-hour
Meters and Demand Devices
Staff Recommendation

TO: Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

On April 5, 2011, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a letter with the Commission requesting a limited waiver from New Hampshire Code Admin. Rules Puc 305.03(c)(4) requiring that each polyphase transformer-rated meter be tested no less than once every four years. PSNH made its request pursuant to Puc Rule 201.05 which allows the Commission to waive rules under conditions.

According to the waiver request, PSNH installed polyphase transformer-rated meters on 125 customer accounts in June 2007 for the purpose of gathering load research data. The subject accounts are customers served under PSNH's General Delivery Service Rate G. PSNH said that customers taking service under Rate G do not normally require meters that can measure consumption in thirty minute intervals; however, the load research requires the data to be collected in thirty minute intervals. PSNH stated that the load research data gathering on these accounts is scheduled to continue through August 2011 at which time the meters will be removed and replaced with non-recording meters.

The Company said that two of the load research meters are due for testing pursuant to Puc 305.03(c)(4) in April 2011 and forty of the meters are due for testing in May 2011. PSNH requests a waiver of that portion of the rules to allow it to defer testing on the 42 meters until November 2011. PSNH explained that, absent a waiver, PSNH will have to remove the meters for testing in April and May and replace them with interval meters that have been tested to complete the load research data gathering. Then, when the research is completed in August 2011, PSNH will have to remove the load research meters and replace them with standard non-recording meters.

PSNH stated that the waiver will permit PSNH to avoid the need to remove and replace the load research meters in April and May, and then repeat the process in September and

November once the load research is completed. With the waiver, PSNH would be able to remove and replace the meters one time only when the sampling is concluded. If the Commission grants the waiver, PSNH said it would test the 42 meters as they are removed from service pursuant to Puc 305.03(c)(4).

The Commission rules for granting waiver reads as follows:

“Puc 201.05 Waiver of Rules.

(a) The commission shall waive the provisions of any of its rules, except where precluded by statute, upon request by an interested party if the commission finds that:

- (1) The waiver serves the public interest; and
- (2) The waiver will not disrupt the orderly and efficient resolution of matters before the commission.

(b) In determining the public interest, the commission shall waive a rule if:

- (1) Compliance with the rule would be onerous or inapplicable given the circumstances of the affected person; or
- (2) The purpose of the rule would be satisfied by an alternative method proposed.

(c) Any interested party seeking a waiver shall make a request in writing, except as provided in (d) below.

(d) The commission shall accept for consideration any waiver request made orally during a hearing or pre-hearing conference.

(e) A request for a waiver shall specify the basis for the waiver and proposed alternative, if any.”

Staff has reviewed PSNH’s request and recommends that the Commission grant the waiver. In granting the waiver, the Commission would allow PSNH to conclude its sampling and require the Company to remove and replace the meters one time only. Without the waiver, PSNH would have to remove and replace the meters twice—once for the testing and once at the conclusion of the load research period. Staff believes that waiver of the rule serves the public interest in that it eliminates PSNH’s need to remove and replace the meter twice during the period; and because PSNH will test the meters when they are removed at the conclusion of its research, the purpose of the rule will be satisfied. Staff further recommends that PSNH be required to submit the results of the testing on the 42 meters once those tests have been completed in November 2011.

Staff contacted the Office of Consumer Advocate and has been informed that the OCA does not object to Staff’s recommendation.

Please let me know if you have any questions.