

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

June 17, 2013 - 2:07 p.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

NHPUC JUL01'13 PM 3:21

RE: DRM 12-039
RULEMAKING:
Puc 1900 - Rate Case Expenses.
(Hearing to receive public comments)

PRESENT: Chairman Amy L. Ignatius, Presiding
Commissioner Michael D. Harrington

Clare Howard-Pike, Clerk

APPEARANCES: (No appearances taken)

Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

ORIGINAL

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

I N D E X

PAGE NO.

STATEMENTS BY:

Ms. Hollenberg

3

Ms. Brown

4

P R O C E E D I N G

1
2 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Good afternoon. We
3 have a hearing today in the proposed Administrative Rules
4 regarding rate case expenses. These are Chapter 900 --
5 excuse me, 1900, the PUC Administrative Rules. And, they
6 are not replacing existing rules or amending existing
7 rules, but actually newly created. And, we are in the --
8 working our way through the formal process with the Joint
9 Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. We are at
10 the point today of having a public hearing to take
11 comments on the rules. There's also an opportunity for
12 written comments after today.

13 And, I'm going to ask Ms. Brown, what is
14 the date for submission of written comments?

15 MS. BROWN: June 24th. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Great. Thank you.
17 So, we have members of Staff and the Consumer Advocate's
18 Office here. We have one member representing a utility.
19 I don't know who wishes to speak? Or just to listen?
20 Looks like the utility rep. doesn't have any comments, but
21 wants to just observe. Does the OCA have comments on the
22 rules?

23 MS. HOLLENBERG: I could give you some
24 preliminary comments. We're file something in writing as

1 well, as well as work through the process with the
2 stakeholders. But we're very pleased to see the opening
3 of the rulemaking, and the efforts, it's obvious, from
4 reviewing the Initial Proposal, that a lot of effort and
5 thought went into coming up with it.

6 We're appreciative of -- especially of
7 the aspects of the Initial Proposal that were items that
8 are similar to advocacy of the OCA in the past in rate
9 cases. And, as the Commission is aware, the issue of rate
10 case expenses, especially recently, has gotten more and
11 more important, as utilities are spending more and more
12 money to litigate at the PUC. And, we are pleased that
13 there is an effort to create some efficiencies and some
14 general applicability rules that could be used to process
15 those requests.

16 And, we look forward to the process.

17 And, thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.

19 Ms. Brown, is there anything that you wanted to either
20 outline for us or notify us, if you had any feedback or
21 anything else you want to add?

22 MS. BROWN: Staff has not had any
23 feedback, or has not been contacted by any other regulated
24 utilities seeking to -- or, Staff is not aware, rather, of

1 any other companies wanting to submit comments.

2 I do have just a general comment. On
3 these rules, the 1900 rules, they essentially take all of
4 the principles that this Commission has enunciated over
5 the years in case law and put them in a rulemaking format.

6 And, the only thing that's new, as I've
7 been telling Liberty Utilities and OCA, who's here today,
8 is the Section 1905.01, that concept or principle of
9 notifying the Commission every 60 days of the rate case
10 expenses and what that total is estimated to be, and what
11 its running total is. That's a new concept. That does
12 not come out of the case law. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. And,
14 that's a really good reminder. When I said that we don't
15 have rules currently, that's true, compared to most of our
16 rules, but we have standards that we've applied over the
17 years. But, as you noted, they have been in orders, and
18 they haven't been in a rulemaking format. And, so, it's a
19 good idea to get all of that brought together in one
20 place, expand on them, revise them, those standards as
21 needed, and make sure that they're as effective as they
22 should be.

23 Do you have any questions?

24 CMSR. HARRINGTON: No.

1 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: No. Anything
2 further?

3 (No verbal response)

4 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Then, we will
5 adjourn the public hearing. We will look forward to any
6 written comments by June 24th, and then continue through
7 the JLCAR process, once we've received and reviewed the
8 written comments. Thank you. We're adjourned.

9 **(Whereupon the hearing was adjourned at**
10 **2:12 p.m.)**

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24