STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION** EXHIBITS EXHIBIT NO. DESCRIPTION PAGENO. 2013 Default Energy Service Rate filling, including the Testimony of Robert A. Baumann, with attachments (09-28-12) December 18, 2012 - 10:12 a.m. Concord, New Hampshire RE: DE 12-292 PUBLIC SERVICE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE: 2013 Default Energy Service Rate. PSNH Joint Technical Statement and updated exhibit of Robert A. Baumann and Frederick B. White, including updated attachments (12-12-12) PSNH Retail Revenue by Rate Class and Unbundled Component at the Rate Levels Effective July 1, 2012, Based on Actual Sales for the 12 Months Ending December 2009, as Proformed for the Permanent distribution Rate Case (DE 09-035), etc. (5 pages) PRESENT: Chairman Amy L. Ignatius, Presiding Commissioner Robert R. Scott Commissioner Michael D. Harrington Sandy Deno, Clerk Direct Testimony of Stephen R. Eckberg, including attachments (11-21-12) APPEARANCES: Reptg. Public Service of New Hampshire: Matthew J. Fossum, Esq. PSNH Response to OCA Data Request 01-002 Reptg. Residential Ratepayers: Susan W. Chamberlin, Esq., Consumer Advocate Stephen Eckberg Office of Consumer Advocate RESERVED (Record Request re: PSNH Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan response) Reptg. PUC Staff: Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq. Steven E. Mullen, Asst. Dir./Electric Div. RESERVED (Response from OCA regarding the Exhibit 6 submission, if necessary) RESERVED (Response from PUC Staff regarding the Exhibit 6 submission, if necessary) Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52 {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

PROCEEDING INDEX CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Good morning. I'd PAGE NO. like to open the hearing in Docket DE 12-292. This is ROBERT A. BAUMANN FREDERICK B. WHITE STEPHEN R. HALL WITNESS PANEL: Public Service Company of New Hampshire's 2013 Default Energy Service rate. The Company filed a petition to set Direct examination by Mr. Fossum the ES rate on January 1, 2013, that has since been Cross-examination by Ms. Chamberlin revised with a filing submitted on December 12th, 2012. Cross-examination by Mr. Mullen We issued an order of notice to address the case, and have Interrogatories by Cmsr. Harrington received no intervention requests, other than the notice 33, 56 Interrogatories by Chairman Ignatius from the Office of Consumer Advocate that it would be participating WITNESS: STEPHEN R. ECKBERG So, let us begin first with appearances. Direct examination by Ms. Chamberlin Mr. Fossum. Cross-examination by Mr. Fossum MR. FOSSUM: Good morning. Matthew Interrogatories by Chairman Ignatius Fossum, for Public Service Company of New Hampshire. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Good morning. MS. CHAMBERLIN: Susan Chamberlin, Consumer Advocate, for the residential ratepayers. With **CLOSING STATEMENTS BY:** PAGE NO. me is Steve Eckberg. Ms. Chamberlin CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Good morning. Ms. Amidon MS. AMIDON: Good morning. Suzanne Mr. Fossum Amidon, for Commission Staff. And, to my left is Steve Mullen, the Assistant Director of the Electric Division. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Good morning. I {DE 12-292} {12-18-12} {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]			[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
1	u	nderstand we have a panel of witnesses this morning. Are	1		your knowledge and belief today?
2		nere any procedural matters to take up before we begin	2	A.	(Baumann) Yes.
3		ith evidence?	3		MR. FOSSUM: I'd like to offer as
4	•	(No verbal response)	4		Exhibit 1" for identification the September 28th filing.
5		CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: It appears there are	5		CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: So marked.
6	n	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	6		(The document, as described, was
		one. So, I'll ask the court reporter to swear the	7		•
7	w	itnesses.			herewith marked as Exhibit 1 for
8		(Whereupon Robert A. Baumann,	8		identification.)
9		Frederick B. White, and Stephen R. Hall	9		MR. FOSSUM:
10		were duly sworn by the Court Reporter.)	10	Q.	, , ,
11		ROBERT A. BAUMANN, SWORN	11		in that testimony.
12		FREDERICK B. WHITE, SWORN	12	A.	(Baumann) The September 28th filing supported with
13		STEPHEN R. HALL, SWORN	13		schedules an initial Energy Service rate proposed for
14		DIRECT EXAMINATION	14		2013 of 8.97 cents per kilowatt-hour. And, that Energy
15	BY	MR. FOSSUM:	15		Service rate was an increase from the current rate that
16	Q.	And, even though we just did this, we'll do it again.	16		is being billed of 7.11 cents per kilowatt-hour that
17		We'll start with Mr. Baumann and work down from there.	17		will end in December. That increase was driven by a
18		Mr. Baumann, can you state your name and place of	18		few factors. Primarily, a large credit that is in the
19		employment for the record?	19		current 7.11 cents will have been refunded by December.
20	Α.	(Baumann) My name is Robert Baumann. I'm employed by	20		That's going away. And, then, we have an increase in
21		Northeast Utilities Service Company, in Berlin,	21		market prices in the fourth quarter of 2012, and
22		Connecticut. And, I'm the Director of Revenue	22		projected into 2013. And, those increase in market
23		Requirements for New Hampshire and Massachusetts.	23		prices are also driving up the rate. And, in the 7.11
24	Q.	And, have you previously testified before this	24		cents, we also had a one-time sale of oil of
	α.	{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}			•
		(52 12 202) (12 10 12)			{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}
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		(82 12 202) (12 10 12)			(DL 12-292) (12-10-12)
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		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]			[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
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23 A. (Baumann) Yes.

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

MR. FOSSUM: I would like to offer as

24

A. (Baumann) No.

24 Q. And, is that testimony true and accurate to the best of

	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]			[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
1	"E	xhibit 2" for identification the technical statement of	1	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. And, do
2	De	ecember 12th.	2	the parties have copies of this?
3		CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: So marked.	3	MS. CHAMBERLIN: Yes.
4		(The document, as described, was	4	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Then,
5		herewith marked as Exhibit 2 for	5	let's mark it as "Exhibit Number 3" for identification.
6		identification.)	6	(The document, as described, was
7	BY I	MR. FOSSUM:	7	herewith marked as Exhibit 3 for
8	Q.	And, Mr. Baumann or Mr. White, who may be appropriate,	8	identification.)
9		can you describe very briefly what updates or changes	9	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Please proceed.
10		are in that technical statement?	10	MR. FOSSUM: Thank you.
11	A.	(Baumann) Well, in the December 12th filing, we filed a	11	BY MR. FOSSUM:
12		final updated proposed ES rate effective in	12	Q. With that identification, please, Mr. Hall, continue
13		January 2013 of 9.54 cents. That is up from the	13	with your description of the document.
14		September rate of 8.97 cents, which was our initial	14	A. (Hall) Sure. This is an exhibit that we've presented
15		filing, primarily due to increase in market prices for	15	in the last three or four Energy Service and Stranded
16		that time period. The rates contain the same cost and	16	Cost Recovery Charge proceedings. And, the purpose of
17		cost detail analysis that was contained in the	17	the exhibit is basically to show what current rates are
18		September rate, just updated for market prices, and	18	and what we're proposing, and the impact of all of the
19		actual known costs for September and October as well.	19	changes, so that the Commission can get a feel for what
20	Q.	I have one other exhibit. I believe Mr. Hall will be	20	we're proposing and what the result would be.
21		the witness for this. Mr. Hall, I'm handing you a copy	21	The first page shows PSNH's overall
22		of a document. Can you please very briefly describe	22	average rate level expressed in cents per
23		what that document is?	23	kilowatt-hour, by rate component. Rate component is
24	A.	(Hall) Certainly.	24	distribution, transmission, Stranded Cost Charge, and
		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

BY MR. FOSSUM: Whenever you're ready. Q. (Hall) This is a document that summarizes the rate changes that we're proposing, both in this docket and in the Stranded Cost Recovery Charge docket that was 6 held -- the hearing was held this morning, that was DE 12-291. This exhibit we have --Hold on just a moment. Q. 10 A. (Hall) Whoops. Thank you. I just wanted a brief description. 11 Q. 12 MR. FOSSUM: So, I would like to mark 13 then for identification as "Exhibit 3" the rate comparison sheet that Mr. Hall has just described. 14 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Before we mark it, 15 let me make certain that this accurately reflects what we 16 17 just heard in the prior hearing. Is the Stranded Cost 18 Recovery Charge changed to accommodate the mistake that 19 was discovered in the rate that was submitted before? MR. FOSSUM: That is not reflected in 20 21 this document. 22 WITNESS HALL: But I think I can provide 23 -- I did some quick calculations, and I think I can 24 provide at least some summary information.

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[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

(Atty. Fossum distributing documents.)

[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] 1 so on. Those are the columns. And, the rows are the 2 various classes of customers: Residential, General 3 Service Rate G, Rate GV, and so on. So, that's a 4 snapshot of where we are today. 5 If you go to the next page, the next 6 page shows what the proposed rate levels are for each of those components. And, in this case, the only 7 8 numbers that are changing from what was on Page 1 are numbers in the "SCRC" column and in the "Energy 9 Service" column. Now, as we talked about just a few 10 minutes ago, if you look at the bottom line of the 11 12 "SCRC" column, it still says "0.67 cents" or "\$0.0067". 13 We've now amended that request to "0.00737" for an overall average SCRC rate. I haven't had time to go 14 through and recalculate all of the numbers. We can do 15 16 so, and file this later today or first thing tomorrow. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Okay. 17 BY THE WITNESS: 18 19 (Hall) With the change to the SCRC number, in the 20 bottom line, if you look at the far right-hand side, the "Total Revenue" column, bottom line, instead of 21 22 "16.115 cents", that should be "16.182 cents". So, 23 again, Page 2 is basically a spreadsheet that shows 24 where we would be if our proposals today, and in the

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	13		15
	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
1	docket earlier this morning, were approved by the	1	Cost Charge decrease that we're proposing, on average,
2	Commission.	2	would result in a 7.67 percent overall bill decrease,
3	The third page shows the change between	3	if you will. And, the "Total Revenue" column,
4	Page 1, today's rates, and Page 2, the proposed rates	4	"8.19 percent", that should also be "8.64 percent".
5	for effect January 1st. And, as you can see, the only	5	And, we will revise these, and we can submit them very
6	columns that change are the "SCRC" column and the	6	quickly.
7	"Energy Service" column. And, again, the bottom line	7	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.
8	of that "SCRC" column, instead of a "negative 0.01210",	8	BY THE WITNESS:
9	with our revised proposal in the earlier docket, that	9	A. (Hall) Yes. The "Total Revenue" column, that
10	should be a "negative \$0.01142" per kilowatt-hour.	10	represents an overall rate change, assuming customers
11	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Can you do that	11	are taking Energy Service rates. We have to somehow
12	number again please?	12	make an assumption as to what the Energy Service
13	WITNESS HALL: Sure. Replace "0.1210"	13	portion of the customer's bill will be. Since we don't
14	with "0.01142", or 1.142 cents.	14	know what customers are paying competitive suppliers,
15	BY THE WITNESS:	15	customers who don't take Energy Service from PSNH, we
16	A. (Hall) Going to the far right-hand column, the "Total	16	make a simplifying assumption for the purpose of this
17	Revenue" column, replace the bottom line, the	17	calculation, assuming that all customers do take Energy
18	"0.01220", that should be a "\$0.01288" per	18	Service from PSNH. And, therefore, we come up with the
19	kilowatt-hour, or 1.288 cents.	19	total revenue percent changes shown in that "Total"
20	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I'm sorry, I got	20	column.
21	lost.	21	BY MR. FOSSUM:
22	WITNESS HALL: Okay.	22	Q. Just very briefly, I just wanted to ask one other
23	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Tell me again why	23	question. In a prior ES docket, the Commission had
24	the SCRC number oh, I'm sorry it says there's a	24	requested that PSNH produce a report of certain
	{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}
	14		16
	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
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2	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] difference. I got it. WITNESS HALL: Yes.	2	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] generation-related information. Has PSNH produced that report?
2 3	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] difference. I got it. WITNESS HALL: Yes. BY THE WITNESS:	2	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] generation-related information. Has PSNH produced that report? A. (Baumann) Yes, we have.
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23 BY MS. CHAMBERLIN:

CROSS-EXAMINATION

24 Q. Mr. Hall, to follow up on Exhibit 3, when you talked

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the "SCRC" bottom line amount, instead of a "negative

7.67 percent". And, what that says is, the Stranded

8.12 percent", that ought to be "negative

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q. A. Q. A.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] about the assumptions that you're making for customers taking the ES rate, when you referred to "all customers", who is that? (Hall) It's all customers taking delivery service. Today? (Hall) Yes. Today? Right now, you've got some customers that have migrated and some that have not. (Hall) Correct. Are you talking about all those collectively or are you just talking about the customers that have stayed? (Hall) The former.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q. A. Q. A.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] calculation is for illustration. It has no actual rate impact? (Hall) No. Oh. (Hall) No. Exhibit 3 is just illustrative, to try to show the impact of all of the changes. All right. Then, let me go back to the Joint Technical Statement and go through your major drivers of the changes. Number 1, you talk about "higher forward electric market prices". What are the major drivers increasing the prices? (White) The major drivers in the forward market prices?
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q.	All customers collectively? (Hall) Yes. And, again, the reason that we make the assumption is we're trying to demonstrate what the overall rate change amount would be that we're proposing on customer's bill amounts. If a customer isn't taking Energy Service from us, we don't know what they're paying for their Energy Service rates. I mean, they're all different. So, in order to try to demon in order to try to show an approximate average percent increase in total bill amounts from what we're proposing, we have to make some sort of assumption for the amount that they pay for Energy Service. And, {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q.	Right. Why do you project that they're going up? (White) Well, we don't project. Those are those are publicly provided prices from brokers in the market. So, it's not unlike quotes on the New York Stock Exchange, is at the end of the day there are publicly published results of the trading day for transactions for electricity in New England in forward months. And, through time, as market conditions change, major drivers being weather forecasts and gas price forecast, natural gas price forecast, as the dynamics change due to those factors, what people are willing to buy and sell energy for in the future changes through time. {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A. Q.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] without any other information available, all we assume is that they would pay PSNH's Energy Service rate. So, for the Energy Service rate, it's an actual it's an actual cost? (Hall) Yes. Because the whole transmission rate has all of these variable components, but you're not talking about those. You're just talking about the actual market components? (Hall) I'm not quite following your question. Well, I just let me get at it another way, perhaps. I was looking at your December 12th filing. And, you had it's the Joint Technical Statement, Section C,	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A. Q.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] So, we monitor those markets. And, generally speaking, that's those are accepted assumptions for the price of power going forward. And, do you have a single source or is this a composite of various sources that you put together? (White) There are multiple sources. And, they all essentially arrive at the same answer at the end of every day. We get what are referred to as "broker sheets" from a couple of different brokers, and, in addition, NYMEX publishes electronically results from their trading days. Okay. Going to Line 2, you've got Newington generation decreasing. This is the Newington gas plant, and it's

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24 A.

decreasing because the gas prices are going higher?

gas. And, what happened is, although market energy

prices increased, gas prices, its fuel, increased more.

So, its relative economics decreased slightly, and it

And, Line 3 simply follows that, it's the IPP prices

(White) Correct. Those are in the ES rate at market

are based on market prices, they are now going up, as

(White) Yes. It's a dual-fired capability plant. But,

generally, in these times, it's on -- it's fired by

generated a bit less.

we discussed in the last docket?

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and you're going over the changes. And, in Line 4 you

talk about -- I mean, in Line 5 on, I don't know what

this -- the page number is not given, you talk about

And, I'm just not understanding why you don't reflect

(Hall) Because you'd get some pretty unusual results.

Well, I must be looking at apples and oranges. Tell me

"an increase in migration from 40 to 42 percent."

that in this particular total revenue calculation?

(Hall) Yes. The only purpose of this total revenue

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18 A.

19 Q.

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21 A.

22 Q.

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24

A.

(Hall) Uh-huh.

what I've done wrong.

					modeled an accumption into the rate that could in and
1		prices.	1		modeled an assumption into the rate that could in and
2	Q.	Line 4, you talk about "higher coal generation and	2		of itself impact migration. If we assumed increasing
3		lower loads". Can you explain that a little more	3		migration, the rate would be higher, that would drive
4		fully?	4		further migration. If we assumed less, it would lower
5	A.	(White) Well, on the "higher coal generation", which I	5		the rate, that could drive reverse migration. So, we
6		believe is Item 1 in this list of changes, since market	6		feel it's best to use the figure, actual data that we
7		prices increased, the amount of energy provided from	7		know, the latest available, at the time of the
8		our coal-fired generating fleet has increased. At the	8		forecast.
9		same time, migration has increased. So, it's lowered	9	Q.	One way to stop or slow migration would be to lower
10		the overall load, the energy requirements to serve	10		your prices, correct?
11		load. The combination of those factors roughly equals	11	A.	(White) A lower rate you would believe would tend to
12		the "407 gigawatt-hours" noted in Item 4, adjustments	12	,	stop or slow migration, or reverse it.
13		to market energy purchases.	13	Q.	Which you're not proposing in this docket?
	Q.	So, this projection for the next year doesn't take into	14	A.	(White) No, we're not.
	u.		15	Q.	
15		account a plant being shut down, this assumes a plant		Q.	From historic numbers, looking at migration, has the
16		continuing to operate?	16		curve gone up, down, up, you know, wavered, from the
	A.	(White) Well, it takes into account periods when	17		past to the present?
18	_	generating plants are on "economic reserve" status.	18	A.	(White) There are there's a monthly variation to
	Q.	Which is simply not operating, but still available to	19		this migration statistic. It's not continually
20		operate?	20		increasing. It goes up and down some. The general
	A.	(White) Yes.	21		slope of migration over the past three years has been
	Q.	So, all I'm getting at is that you've made this	22		positive, which perhaps is what you're getting at. In
23		assumption that this plant is operating, it's going to	23		2012, the rate of migration is a bit higher than it was
24		operate a little bit more, maybe not a lot more, but	24		in 2011. So, that slope is a little higher. Is
		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}			{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}
		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]			[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
1		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] that's your projection for the year?	1		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] 24 that
	Α.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]	1 2	Q.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
2	A. Q.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] that's your projection for the year?		Q. A.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] that
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] that's your projection for the year? (White) Correct. Did you include the Berlin Plant coming on line? Is it the Laidlaw Plant? He's telling me the proper name is the "Berlin BioPower Plant"? (White) We have not included the assumption that that will be on line in the fall. We're aware that's the current projection. We haven't made the assumption that that's going to come to pass. It may well, but schedules, construction schedules can change dramatically through time. It's far enough out that we have not included that in this forecast. In terms of customer migration, on Line 5, you have the increase from "40 to 42.5 percent". Do you, in your projection, does that line continue to go up or does it flatten at about 42 percent? (White) In this forecast, for the proposed 2013 rate, 42 percent is the assumed migration throughout 2013. And, you're not looking beyond that, you're just looking at 2013? (White) Well, this is a 2013 ES rate docket. So, in that context, no, we're not looking beyond 2013. Some	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A. Q. A.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] that That's what I was getting at. Yes. (White) Just to add one point. I mentioned the "monthly variation", in fact, that statistic decreased a bit through November. We now have available actual data through November, and it dropped to below 42 percent. So, there are it does vary a bit on a monthly basis. One of the other points, are we on number number 7, we're talking about increases to Schiller 5, "Other forecasted changes totaling a net 1.3 million". Are you with me? (White) Yes. Can you explain the updates to Schiller 5? (White) The update to Schiller 5 has to do with the credit to customers based on the value of Class I RECs that are sold, generated by Schiller 5 and sold in the market. And, the assumed price at which those sales would occur was lowered slightly in this forecast. So, the credit to customers is a little bit less than in the prior forecast. "Congestion and losses" is the next issue?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A. Q.	that's your projection for the year? (White) Correct. Did you include the Berlin Plant coming on line? Is it the Laidlaw Plant? He's telling me the proper name is the "Berlin BioPower Plant"? (White) We have not included the assumption that that will be on line in the fall. We're aware that's the current projection. We haven't made the assumption that that's going to come to pass. It may well, but schedules, construction schedules can change dramatically through time. It's far enough out that we have not included that in this forecast. In terms of customer migration, on Line 5, you have the increase from "40 to 42.5 percent". Do you, in your projection, does that line continue to go up or does it flatten at about 42 percent? (White) In this forecast, for the proposed 2013 rate, 42 percent is the assumed migration throughout 2013. And, you're not looking beyond that, you're just looking at 2013? (White) Well, this is a 2013 ES rate docket. So, in that context, no, we're not looking beyond 2013. Some of the thinking with that is that, if you were to	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. A. Q. A.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] that That's what I was getting at. Yes. (White) Just to add one point. I mentioned the "monthly variation", in fact, that statistic decreased a bit through November. We now have available actual data through November, and it dropped to below 42 percent. So, there are it does vary a bit on a monthly basis. One of the other points, are we on number number 7, we're talking about increases to Schiller 5, "Other forecasted changes totaling a net 1.3 million". Are you with me? (White) Yes. Can you explain the updates to Schiller 5? (White) The update to Schiller 5 has to do with the credit to customers based on the value of Class I RECs that are sold, generated by Schiller 5 and sold in the market. And, the assumed price at which those sales would occur was lowered slightly in this forecast. So, the credit to customers is a little bit less than in the prior forecast. "Congestion and losses" is the next issue? (White) The primary component of that is the cost to

[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

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		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
1		at their locations to the New Hampshire load zone,	1	MR. MULLEN: Good morning.
2		which is the price that load sees. There's a small	2	WITNESS BAUMANN: Good morning.
3		price separation, and with and it's an overall cost,	3	BY MR. MULLEN:
4		it's an added cost, with higher generation that cost	4	Q. Sticking with the REC issue for a moment, with respect
5		has increased somewhat.	5	to Massachusetts, could you explain, Mr. White, the
6	Q.	Are there plans to improve the transmission to lower	6	changes for 2013 and how that impacts the sale? And,
7		that increasing price?	7	for the next couple of years or so after that, what, if
8	A.	(White) The transmission topography is always changing.	8	anything, may change beyond that?
9		Maintenance and projects are always in play. I don't	9	A. (White) I'm going to qualify my statements up front
10		believe we're aware of any that would dramatically	10	that I'm not an expert on this. And, if what I provide
11		change the relationship we've seen.	11	isn't sufficient, there are others in the room who
12	Q.	The "ISO ancillary and expenses", what makes that?	12	could probably provide more detail. Massachusetts has
13	A.	(White) That component actually decreased. And,	13	changed their REC regulations in that, for the output
14		essentially, those are ratable components. And, with	14	from biomass facilities to qualify in Massachusetts,
15		less load, there are administrative charges from	15	they have made the requirement stricter. And, my
16		ISO-New England that are charged off to load, that	16	understanding is, it's based on an addition to how the
17		we've modeled a little less load in this forecast,	17	wood is harvested, the type of wood, and even soil
18		those costs have gone down.	18	composition. The impact on us is that we believe that
19	Q.	And, is that the same with the "RGGI expenses", if you	19	we we acquire wood for burning at Schiller 5 from
20		modeled less load, the expenses go up?	20	many different suppliers. And, some of the fuel
21	A.	(White) No.	21	supplied will qualify, some of it won't. We believe it
22	Q.	Oh. All right.	22	will be less than 50 percent of what we buy as fuel
23	A.	(White) RGGI expenses are actually based on generation	23	will qualify in Massachusetts. Therefore, as discussed
24		output at our coal fleet and Newington, and the coal	24	previously, we'll sell the other output into other
		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}
		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

fleet producing more energy, moves RGGI costs up. 2 Q. Okay. On the Class I RECs, there were changes in the Massachusetts definition of a "REC". Does that affect your ability to count on those revenues coming out of 5 Massachusetts? (White) It would affect our ability to make sales into 6 Α. Massachusetts. However, there are other markets out 8 there to sell into, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, we have transacted in those markets in the past. They 9 will be available in the future. In addition, we 10 intend to sell into Connecticut markets as well. So, 11 it's true that some of our RECs will not qualify in 12 13 Massachusetts markets anymore, but there are other 14 outlets to make those sales. 15 Q. So, this is a regional market, the New England region, 16 essentially? 17 (White) Yes. 18 MS. CHAMBERLIN: That's all I have. 19 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Ms. 20 Amidon. MS. AMIDON: Thank you. I ask that 21 22 Steve Mullen be permitted to conduct the cross. Thank 23 you. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: That's fine. 24

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

There's been a little price separation seen in the markets, in that Class I RECs, in Massachusetts, their price has increased a bit relative to Class I RECs in other markets. In addition to that, the Mass. regs are changing efficiency requirements effective in 2016. And, Schiller 5 output will not

9 But, with that, you currently still expect to be able 10 to sell those RECs, as you mentioned, in New Hampshire and Rhode Island? And, are you certified yet in 11 12 Connecticut?

qualify under those stricter efficiency standards.

markets.

13 (White) I believe that's in process. That's subject to check. I don't believe we are yet. 14

15 Q. Okay.

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(White) But, yes. Yes. The price assumptions in this 16 A. 17 forecast are from the broker sheets from the markets 18 we've been talking about. And, there hasn't been a 19 decrease in the market assumptions for the value of 20 RECs. As I said, the only change has been the Massachusetts RECs have increased slightly. So, for a 21 22 portion of our output, it may actually have a little 23 bit more value, to the extent we can still sell into 24 Massachusetts.

		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
1	Q.	Overall, in terms of not just Class I, but for the	1	capacity factor was decreasing in our projections, when
2		various classes of RECs, do you see PSNH's costs	2	based on a monthly average view. So, we've, this year,
3		increasing going forward?	3	implemented a more rigorous dispatch algorithm for the
4	A.	(White) In out years?	4	Schiller plants based on a daily dispatch, to, we feel,
5	Q.	We'll start with 2013, and then beyond that.	5	more accurately represent its expected operation during
6	A.	(White) Well, I guess, yes. I mean, the market is	6	2013. So, it's a more detailed dispatch algorithm.
7		designed, I think, that prices will increase, the	7	Q. Mr. Baumann, if you could turn to Exhibit 2, and I'm
8		requirements for the various classes are typically	8	looking at Attachment RAB-2, Page 7. And, this is
9		the volume necessary is typically a percent of load.	9	showing detail of wood IPP purchases. We had some
10		And, those percentages increase every year, at varying	10	discussion of the Wood IPPs in the prior proceeding
11		rates for the different classes. In addition, the	11	this morning, and I wanted to just touch base on this a
12		Alternative Compliance Payment is indexed to CPI. So,	12	little bit.
13		absent a physical sale or purchase, the rate that's	13	CMSR. SCOTT: Mr. Mullen, can you tell
14		applied is a rate that increases through time,	14	us where we are again?
15		presumably as the CPI increases. So, costs would go up	15	MR. MULLEN: Sure. I'm on Attachment
16		through time, I think, by design.	16	RAB-2, Page 7, of Exhibit Number 2. It should have at the
17	Q.	And, that's essentially, all else being equal, assuming	17	top, the top right corner should say "Docket Number DE
18		like your load stayed the same, if your load were to	18	12-292". And, this should be a spreadsheet that has
19		decrease, then, of course, your percentage of that load	19	detail of wood IPP purchases for the year 2013.
20		that you have to pay in that you would have to	20	CMSR. SCOTT: Just for clarity sake,
21		acquire RECs would also change accordingly?	21	that's "RAB-4", correct? "Attachment RAB-4"?
22	A.	(White) That's correct.	22	MR. MULLEN: No. I'm looking at RAB-2,
23	Q.	So, it's kind of a trade-off from one to the other?	23	Page 7.
24	A.	(White) Yes. I was speaking more in terms of a rate.	24	CMSR. SCOTT: Got it. Thank you.
		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}
		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

But, in terms of dollars, absolutely, your load volume would have a large impact on the dollar amount. 2 In terms of, and I don't know if you could address 3 Q. individually, the Newington and Schiller and Merrimack 5 Station, how the planning assumptions for those may have changed for purposes of this filing, as compared 6 to the past? 8 (White) Okay. I'll start with Newington, which the planning assumptions for Newington are essentially 9 10 unchanged, compared to previous projections. Newington is a gas-fired utility. Gas is the most economic fuel 11 12 currently, and has been for the last few years. So, our approach for modeling Newington really hasn't 13 14 changed. 15 With regard to Merrimack, not a lot of change there. We adjust -- we adjust months during 16 17 which they will operate, based on changes in forward market prices. And, given different forward prices, 18 19 the pattern of generation changes, as we've seen from 20 our September projection to now. And, we typically 21 view Merrimack dispatch on either a monthly or a weekly 22

basis. That hasn't changed a whole lot. With regard to Schiller, as our fuel

stock for Schiller has increased a bit, and its {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

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MR. MULLEN: Okay.

BY MR. MULLEN:

2 3 Mr. Baumann, looking at this, if I was to look at the

4 first set of horizontal lines that are labeled

5 "Generation - Megawatt-Hours", and starting in the

6 months where the zeros show, does that mean that those

contracts will be ending in the prior month? 7

8 A. (Baumann) Yes.

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9 So, as we look through the end of 2013, looks like

there's only one of those contracts that's still in

effect as of the end of the upcoming year? 11

12 A. (Baumann) Yes. That would be Springfield.

13 And, beyond -- and, beyond those contracts, there's no

additional commitments to purchase from those units? 14

15 Α. (Baumann) That's correct.

16 Would it be a fair summary of the changes in Exhibit 2,

17 as compared to Exhibit 1, to say that gas prices have

18 increased a bit and market prices have increased a bit,

19 therefore, you plan to run the Newington on gas less,

20 but your coal plants more to meet the load?

21 (White) Yes. That's accurate.

22 And, with the other major change associated, it has to

23 do with customer migration, in terms of the loads?

24 Α. (White) Yes.

	_	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]			[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
1	Q.	Mr. Baumann, will this be the last time you're before	1		changes. The Commission rules require the filing of a
2		the Commission as a witness?	2		document called a "bingo sheet".
3	A.	(Baumann) No. I believe I may be here in January, some	3	Q.	A "bingo sheet"?
4		week in January.	4	A.	(Hall) "Bingo sheet", yes. It's basically a I can't
5	Q.	Then, I won't put the cart before the horse.	5		remember what rule it is, but it's basically a table
6	A.	(Baumann) Giddy-up.	6		that shows present rates, proposed rates, amount change
7		(Laughter.)	7		and percent change, by rate class. And, bingo sheets
8		MR. MULLEN: Thank you. I have nothing	8		are based on kilowatt-hour sales from the test year,
9	fu	rther.	9		which is also the time frame used to calculate PSNH's
10		WITNESS BAUMANN: But thanks, though.	10		rates and prices rates and charges in its tariff.
11		CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I feel like we	11		So, to be consistent with the rates and charges that
12	m	issed an announcement somewhere. I guess we have to wait	12		are calculated in the tariff, and with the bingo sheet
13	uı	ntil January. Questions from the Commissioners?	13		requirement, we use the same data here. So that the
14		CMSR. HARRINGTON: Yes.	14		"twelve months ending 2009" was the test year in our
15		CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Commissioner	15		last rate case.
16	H	arrington.	16	Q.	Okay. Now, I understand. Then, when you say "actual
17	BY (CMSR. HARRINGTON:	17		sales" here, are you talking sales as in distribution
18	Q.	Okay. I guess we'll start with Exhibit 2, on Section	18		or sales as in energy?
19		C.1. And, I guess it's Page 2. And, on the top line	19	A.	(Hall) Distribution.
20		there, which is 1, it says "Projected coal generation	20	Q.	Distribution?
21		increasesdue to higher forward electric market".	21	A.	(Hall) Yes.
22		So, apparently, what you're saying is, because the	22	Q.	And, has there been much of a change over that period
23		clearing price in the electric market the energy	23		of time?
24		markets is going to increase, that the coal plants	24	A.	(Hall) Bear with me for just one moment.
		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}			{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}
		24			26
		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]			[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
1		will, therefore, clear more often and they will be	1	Q.	I'm not looking for an exact number, but just maybe a
2		dispatched more often economically?	2		round
3	A.	(White) That's correct.	3	A.	(Hall) Well, I can give you sales from the test year.
4	Q.	So, then, in your previous estimate, what were you	4		In megawatt-hours, it was 7,657,472 megawatt-hours,
5		estimating for your capacity factor for the coal plants	5		7,657,472. What I was doing is I was going to try to
6		for the year?	6		compare that to the numbers in Mr. Baumann's attachment
7	A.	(White) Approximately 25 percent at the Merrimack	7		that was a projection of sales for 2013.
8		units, and 5 percent at the Schiller units.	8	Q.	Which, if memory serves me right, it's going to be
9	Q.	And, now, the new estimates had them go to?	9		pretty close.
10	A.	(White) Just over 30 percent at the Merrimack units,	10	A.	(Hall) It is. 2013 projected sales are 7,785,920.
11		and seven and a half percent at the Schiller units.	11	Q.	Okay. Thank you. There was discussion on the
12	Q.	Okay.	12		migration. And, it was stated that the migration
13	A.	(White) Eight percent, actually.	13		dropped through November or is that I guess I take
14	Q.	Okay. Thank you for that information. And, on, I	14		it, some customers who left had come back?
			I		

15 A.

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Q. 24

return?

data.

Uh-huh.

(White) Yes. I think there's always customer movement.

It could also be the way different customers' energy

usage changes from month to month, as they adjust operations, because it's really a statistic that looks

So, that could be a statistical anomaly showing a small

at the relative consumption between two groups.

(White) It's possible. I think it's real, it's actual

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

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guess, again, whoever is most appropriate should

3, which has the various charts of how rates get

title, it talks about "Based on Actual Sales for the

answer, rather than me try to select them, on Exhibit

affected and so forth, on each of the charts, up in the

Twelve Months Ending December 2009." First, I guess to

start with, why are we using old information? I assume

(Hall) This information is prepared from information we

we know actual sales much more updated than that.

use to file what's known as a "bingo sheet" for rate

		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]	
1	A.	(White) And, there's a seasonal pattern to it. So, it	1 some discussions and proposals around that. There v	vas
2		may well have to do with heating, some customers	2 a docket established to discuss migration. I don't	
3		heating more than others, things like that.	3 think we're unaware of what's been happening and wh	nat
4	Q.	Okay. And, you in the exhibit, it says "45"	4 may happen in the future.	
5		"42.5 percent" was the migration rate that you were	5 Q. But the Company, for economic planning purposes, ha	as
6		using for the year. Now, does that represent what you	6 not done any analysis as to what they think the	
7		project it to be on January 1st or is it a monthly	7 migration rate will be in 2013?	
8		average or for the whole year or what exactly does that	8 A. (White) Well,	
9		figure mean?	9 Q. That should be a "yes" or "no" question please.	
10	A.	(White) That's based on actual data through October of	10 A. (White) No. We have looked at different scenarios.	
11	Α.	2012, which was the latest available data we had for	11 Was that does that answer	
12		this filing.	12 Q. Yes. So, you have done analysis then. I guess you	
	_	_		
13	Q.	Okay. And, as I think in the questions from the OCA,	, ,,	
14		you said that the trend for migration has been going	14 scenarios, would say you've done analysis on what co	ouia
15		up. So, it would be safe to say that, if this is	be migration rates in 2013?	
16		actual data from October, that, once we hit January,	16 A. (White) Yes.	
17		that number is probably going to be outdated, and, in	17 Q. Okay.	
18		fact, the number would be higher, and it would continue	18 A. (Baumann) Commissioner, just to add, there is I	
19		to get higher as the higher rate came in and progressed	19 believe there's a data request in this docket that	
20		that way throughout the year?	20 asked for that. And, Mr. White may be referring to	
21	A.	(White) You could make that assumption, I suppose. I	21 that as his analysis. I think it assumed a migration	
22		think market conditions would probably logically leave	rate up to 48 percent, and what the rate impact	
23		you there lead you there. Again, we don't want to	potentially would be.	
24		influence that by making an assumption up front. So,	24 Q. That's what I was looking for.	
		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}	{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}	
		38	40	
		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]	
1		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] we go with what we know.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] 1 A. (Baumann) And, I think that I think it was about a	
2	Q.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] we go with what we know. So, you go with what you know, and you go into 2013 and	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] 1 A. (Baumann) And, I think that I think it was about a 2 tenth of a cent for every two, two and a half percent	
2 3	Q.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] we go with what we know. So, you go with what you know, and you go into 2013 and you just close your eyes and cover your ears and hope	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] 1 A. (Baumann) And, I think that I think it was about a 2 tenth of a cent for every two, two and a half percent 3 of migration, would be a general ballpark figure.	.
2 3 4	Q.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] we go with what we know. So, you go with what you know, and you go into 2013 and you just close your eyes and cover your ears and hope that "I don't know anything about migration rates, and	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] 1 A. (Baumann) And, I think that I think it was about a 2 tenth of a cent for every two, two and a half percent 3 of migration, would be a general ballpark figure. 4 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Can you say t	hat
2 3 4 5	Q.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] we go with what we know. So, you go with what you know, and you go into 2013 and you just close your eyes and cover your ears and hope that "I don't know anything about migration rates, and let's hope they don't go up when we look at them next	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] 1 A. (Baumann) And, I think that I think it was about a 2 tenth of a cent for every two, two and a half percent 3 of migration, would be a general ballpark figure. 4 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Can you say t 5 again? A tenth of percent a tenth of a cent for	
2 3 4 5 6	Q.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] we go with what we know. So, you go with what you know, and you go into 2013 and you just close your eyes and cover your ears and hope that "I don't know anything about migration rates, and let's hope they don't go up when we look at them next time"? I mean, there's no projection by the Company as	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] 1 A. (Baumann) And, I think that I think it was about a 2 tenth of a cent for every two, two and a half percent 3 of migration, would be a general ballpark figure. 4 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Can you say t 5 again? A tenth of percent a tenth of a cent for 6 WITNESS BAUMANN: Yes. About a t	
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[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

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[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]			[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
1		some delays or	1		communicate with ISO regarding fuel inventories. And,
2	A.	(White) No. I believe that projected fall in-service	2		so, they're aware of our ability to run in those
3		date is actually a significant acceleration to the	3		circumstances. So, we are prepared to meet those
4		original schedule, which was something like mid 2014.	4		needs. Our coal facilities may be some they turn to.
5	Q.	And, then, why was that not incorporated into the rate	5	Q.	And, in Newington, you mentioned selling the oil. If
6		for 2013, if it looks like it could have an impact on	6		there was one of these cold snaps, and gas does
7		the rates? Excuse me.	7		Newington have firm gas? Let me start with that.
8	A.	(White) I guess the confidence level in that in-service	8	A.	(White) Newington does not have firm gas. They would
9		date is didn't lead us to believe it should be	9		be impacted by constraints on the system. Newington
10		included.	10		does have oil inventory.
11	Q.	Okay. So, what happens then, if it does come on,	11	Q.	So, they would be able to run in a gas constraint
12		let's, for the sake of argument, October 1st, that's	12		situation?
13		kind of mid fall, the fall, then would you be coming	13	A.	(White) That's correct.
14		back with your Default Service rates for next year and	14	Q.	Okay. Good. Just a general question on, when you do
15		have to recoup that money, so it would be slightly	15		your projections, you had said you had had capacity
16		higher to make up for, say, whatever, October,	16		factors, and then they went up slightly due to increase
17		November, December, the Laidlaw production?	17		in market rates. Overall, is there a point where the
18	A.	(White) Yes. Eventually, it would have to be	18		I'm trying to get the level of where the cost
19		recovered. Typically, we would update the ES rate for	19		becomes beneficial, the running becomes more beneficial
20		July 1st.	20		to the consumer? In other words, we have the cost, and
21	Q.	Uh-huh.	21		let's just take Merrimack, whether it's running or not,
22	A.	(White) Filing in the May and June time frame. We'll	22		it's in the rate base, the customers are paying for
23		know more at that point whether that schedule has	23		that. Now, if it's running at a lower percentage,
24		moved.	24		that's because it's cheaper for the customers to buy
		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}			{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

1	Q.	So, you have a high confidence level of the schedule at
2		that time, so you're waiting until then to make any
3		adjustments?
4	A.	(White) We'll have a higher confidence level, yes.
5	Q.	Fair enough. The ISO has been looking at things for
6		probably this winter, and maybe the winter after this,
7		there's been a concern over overdependence on natural
8		gas, the fact that there's a lack of dual-fuel
9		capability from a lot of the plants. And, one of their
10		proposals is to basically run some plants out of merit
11		in preparation for potential cold snaps, where they
12		would think that they would need non-gas provided
13		generation. Is there any thing in your proposed rate
14		that would account for this fact that, you know, that
15		Merrimack Station could possibly be dispatched a day or
16		two in anticipation of extremely cold weather, and they
17		could, even if the cold weather didn't materialize,
18		that they would be paid uplift costs, and, of course,
19		if it did, then they would be up and running and ready
20		to go at a time of what would potentially be higher
21		rates? I know that's very difficult to account for.

I'm just wondering if there was any attempt to do that

(White) We haven't explicitly modeled that. And, we do

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

22

23

24 A.

in here?

[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

1 the power from the market than it is to turn that on 2 and absorb the additional cost of fuel. So, is there 3 some point where -- some capacity factor where you actually could lower rates through increased running or 5 is that just strictly based on getting a market rate 6 high enough so that that would occur? 7 (White) As market prices increase, a pure market -- a 8 pure full requirements service off the market increases 9 faster than our ES rate would increase. Because, as 10 you said, as the price increases, our units would come 11 on line at a certain price and cap costs at that point. 12 So, yes, there is a price point in the market. And, if 13 it was met in every month, our units would generate in every month. 14 And, that is around 45? I mean, or is that 15 16 confidential? (White) Forty-eight dollars, let's say. 17 CMSR. HARRINGTON: Forty-eight dollars, 18 19 okay. All right. Thank you. That's all I had. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Commissioner Scott. 20 CMSR. HARRINGTON: I appreciate, because 21 22 those were kind of complicated questions, bearing with me. 23 Thank you. 24 CMSR. SCOTT: Thank you. Good after --

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

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[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]	
good morning still. And, again, I'll direct these	
guestions to whoever is hest	

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BY CMSR. SCOTT:

correct?

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24 Q.

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Q. And, probably, back to the migration question, and this may be just my faulty memory, which is not unheard of. So, on Exhibit 2, you talk about an increase in migration up to 42 and a half percent. I thought I remembered recent filings on 44 to 45 percent, is that

10 A. (White) I believe that's correct. There are a -- there 11 are separate filings for migration, that I'm not 12 directly involved with. It's a slightly different statistic than what's utilized here. This looks at 13 both energy and capacity. The other quarterly filings 14 that the Company makes are energy only. And, this is 15 16 monthly load, and the other filing is based on sales, 17 which has some meter read components to it, in the 18 timing. So, I think you're correct, some of those more 19 recent filings indicated a higher migration level than 20 what's shown here. They're two -- they're calculated 21 two different ways, both are valid statistics. We feel 22 that, for this purpose, this is the correct calculation

to be made. Does that get to your question?

Okay. I think so. So, you don't find the two

[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] getting on the customers' meters.

1

2 Q. Okay.

3 (White) The data used here is actual monthly data. A. 4 It's load that actually occurs during a calendar month.

5 Q. Okay. And, again, I apologize for rehashing this with 6 some of the same questions. So, I believe I understand 7 the Company's position, that you don't want to project 8 -- you want to take a snapshot, I don't mean -- I don't 9 want to put words in anybody's mouth, but you 10 effectively want to take a snapshot of migration and 11 apply that, so you don't, basically, have an impact on 12 causing more migration by doing a projection. Is that a fair statement? 13

(White) Yes. That's a fair statement. We use the most 14 A. recently -- the most current actual data available. 15

16 Q. Okay. But, having said that, and I understand they're 17 perhaps apples and oranges, obviously, your projection on fuel prices and other things that potentially raise 18 19 your service rate, is that correct?

20 (White) Yes. There are many assumptions that go into Α. 21 this forecast. Cost of fuel being a major one.

22 Q. Okay. I'll go onto another topic.

23 A. (Baumann) Commissioner, I just want to add, I'm sitting 24 here with a burning desire, but we've talked about this {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

inconsistent then, the way you've done it?

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

2 Α. (White) No. There are good reasons for the differences between the two. 3

Okay. I'll accept that. All right.

(White) Well, as I said, they are calculated -- the 5 A. 6 calculations are simply different.

> (Baumann) The calculations that he's referring to, some of them are based on billed sales. So, they're not as, in my opinion, they're not as accurate, on a monthly basis, on looking at the actual monthly migration rates. Because, you know, Mr. White goes off of actual generation load in a particular calendar month. Whereas, billed sales will be calendar reads from the previous month and the current month, it's kind of a blend. So, any time you do an analysis of energy and generation, we always stay with the load analysis. Because, when you start looking at billed sales, you know, you may say "gee, the billed sales were down in November". Well, not really, because half of those billed sales in November come from October, depending on weather patterns. Billed sales analysis can get a little less intuitive, just because of the change and the impact that you have on billed sales, and then the delay and timing of those billed sales, you know, {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] 1 internally. But, then, you have to start bringing the

situation, let's say we get the Alternative Default Service rate. How would that impact migration? I

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4 mean, there are a lot of, really, a lot of unknowns. 5 And, that's one of the drivers that has, you know, 6 brought us to the decision as to not to try to project

7 something because of the unknowns. Certainly, we're 8 not sitting here today saying that this increasing rate 9

is going to decrease migration. But the question is,

10 what will the markets do and what is going to happen with an ADE, and how might that impact the markets? 11

12 Because the ADE rate that we've put down here in the

13 lost paragraph of the technical statement is starting 14 to become market competitive. Depending on when we set

15 that ADE rate, it may even be set lower in the future.

16 What's the presumption of large customers? It doesn't

17 take a lot of customers to come back, potentially, to

18 impact migration, if they're large. You know, tens of 19 thousands of small residential customers can be dwarfed

20 by one or two large industrials. So, relationships

21 that they might have with their suppliers; sometimes

22 they're smooth and sometimes they're not, and sometimes 23 customers want a little more stability.

> So, there's just so many unknowns to us. {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

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	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]	
1		And, we've sat there and discussed this, and we said	1 If it's necessary to do that, we will. We just need to	
2		"not sure how we would even do it." Other than, "yes,	2 make sure the court reporter knows that we're heading	
3		well, price is going up, will probably be some more	3 there, and we need to have people who are not authorized	
4		migration." But then we get into the "what ifs" and	4 to receive the confidential information to be out of the	
5		"what ifs" and "what ifs", and it's just very difficult	5 room. So, it's a cumbersome thing to do. We want to	
6		to quantify.	6 block those questions together and not have people popping	
7	Q.	Okay. Thank you for that. So, moving on to RAB-4	7 in and out. So, think about questions and answers, and	
8		excuse me, 2. I just, generally, when I look at, in	8 try to reserve anything that really delves into the	
9		this case, the RGGI costs, there are certain months	9 confidential matters to do as a block.	
10		where you show zero cost. I was just curious how you	10 MR. FOSSUM: And, Commissioner, before	
11		project all that?	11 you begin, I don't know that, necessarily, the members of	
12	A.	(White) RGGI costs are a result of generation	12 the panel who are present up there are the best would	
13		emissions from generation. So, in months where our	13 be the best to answer any questions you might have. We	
14		generation is not running,	14 have others in the room who would probably be better	
15	Q.	Oh. Okay.	15 suited for your questions about that report specifically.	
16	A.	(White) we show no RGGI costs in those months.	16 If you'd like, we can have them sworn, I guess. But that	
17	Q.	Okay. That makes a lot of sense. Okay. Thank you.	17 would depend on the nature of your questions.	
18		Similarly, the RPS costs, I assume, since you're	18 CMSR. SCOTT: So, would it be best to do	
19		projecting selling as much as you can in the	19 this later in the proceeding?	
20		Massachusetts market, where you get I assume that's	20 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Maybe so. Why don't	
21		because you get the most money for the RECs you	21 we continue with the materials contained in the Energy	
22		generate, you've already talked about perhaps selling	22 Service filing, testimony and Joint Statement, Joint	
23		into the New Hampshire and Connecticut markets to make	23 Technical Statement. And, then, maybe think about what	
24		up for anything that you can't do for the Massachusetts	24 the questions are, and whether we need to call Mr. Smagula	
		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}	{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}	
		, , , , ,		
		50 SANEL BANKE 1	52	
		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]	
1		market. So, are the costs shown here for the RPS, are	1 or otherwise, whoever else to the stand.	
2		those for making the New Hampshire ACP payments? Is	2 CMSR. SCOTT: If that's the case, I'm	
3		that what that is?	3 all set for now.	
4	A.	(White) Essentially, yes. Those are the costs	4 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. I have a	
5		associated with our load. They do not include the	5 few more questions on the matters having to do with the	
6		credits associated with the revenues we receive for	6 calculations for Energy Service.	
7		Schiller 5, which are actually netted out of Line 12 in	7 BY CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS:	
8	_	RAB-2, "Fossil energy costs".	8 Q. You gave us capacity factors for Merrimack 1 and 2, and	
9	Q.	Okay. You anticipated my question, so that's all	9 the Schiller coal units, in questioning from	
10		right. Great.	10 Mr. Harrington. Do you have the current capacity	
11		CMSR. SCOTT: Excuse me for just a	factors for, and then the projected ones, for 2013, for	
12	S	econd.	12 Newington and for the Schiller Bio, Unit 5?	
13		(Cmsr. Scott conferring with Chairman	13 A. (White) The projected capacity factors in this filing,	

will that answer your --

Commissioner Harrington, --

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

December filing?

-- was it September?

(White) Yes, it was.

Okay. That's fine.

helpful.

Yes.

Q. If you have current and projected, that would be

If that's -- if that was the basis of the ones to

(White) Current being our September filing versus the

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22 Q.

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Q.

Ignatius.)

intention is to ask you questions that are not

confidential in nature, but general. But, again, we

any of these, when we have confidential information, we

how far we can go without going into confidential matters.

want to be very careful to first start general, and see

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

I wanted to briefly discuss your separate filing, which

you've asked to be considered "confidential". And, my

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Yes. I think, in

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BY CMSR. SCOTT:

can go, well, --

		[WITNESS PANEL: Daumann~Wnite~nail]	
1	A.	(White) Excuse me. Schiller 5 was 79 percent, and	1 of the plant, that would make the difference? Or, are
2		remains at 79 percent. It's baseload dispatch.	2 there two different changes going on at once?
3		Newington went from 3 percent to 2 percent. I believe	3 A. (White) It's both. There are two different changes to
4		there's some rounding in those numbers. I don't know	4 the regulations.
5		that it's a full one percent delta there, but those are	5 Q. On the changes to how the Company intends to dispatch
6		the rounded numbers. The hydro facilities were at	6 Schiller, were you talking about Schiller Unit 5 or
7		67 percent, and are still at 67 percent. And, the ICUs	7 would it be the other Schiller units?
8		do not dispatch in either, in either case.	8 A. (White) It was the coal units, 4 and 6.
9	Q.	What are "ICUs"?	9 Q. Okay. And, that you were, instead of looking at them
10	A.	(White) The jets, the internal combustion units, the	on a monthly basis, you'd be looking at them on a daily
11		very high-priced peaking units.	11 basis?
12	Q.	All right. So, that's consistent with a response I	12 A. (White) Correct. That's a change to the modeling that
13	۷.	think you gave to Ms. Chamberlin, that you expected	13 we made.
14		that, with market increases in natural gas, you would	
15		dispatch Newington a bit less, and coal, the coal units	day-by-day basis, there will be more opportunities
16		a bit more?	where it would be economic to bid in the Schiller unit
17	Α.	(White) Correct.	17 those Schiller coal units?
18	Q.	So, is it correct then that the increases in natural	18 A. (White) Yes. And, that's why we did it. In the past,
19		gas you're expecting are significant enough that coal	it was, let's say, it was efficient to look at monthly
20		is now a more economic fuel source?	20 averages. We didn't feel that was an accurate
21	A.	(White) Yes. That's what's occurred in the changes to	21 representation any longer. Schiller 4 and 6 do, in
22		price projections. So, they have dispatched in more	fact, have a fair amount of dispatch flexibility. So,
23		months and saved customers money. They're still	and, in fact, ISO, in recent months, has utilized them
24		available in all months, should prices increase in	in that fashion more and more. So, we felt it was the
		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}	{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}
		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]
1		[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] those months, to a certain level. But that's what's	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] 1 correct adjustment to make.
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2	Q.	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] those months, to a certain level. But that's what's	[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] 1 correct adjustment to make.
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[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

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[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

57 [WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall] CMSR. HARRINGTON: Okay. That's what I CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: We had a chance to 1 1 2 was trying to get clarified. Thank you. 2 think a little bit about how best to approach the filing CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: What I'd like to do 3 3 that the Company made at our request. And, I think, for a 4 number of reasons, we're not going to go into it today 4 is take a fifteen minute break to give everybody a chance 5 5 to think about questioning in the confidential matters, with witnesses. We agree with all of the parties' 6 and including the ultimate question, "is it appropriate at 6 comments that there is more discovery and more detailed 7 this point to go there or should that be taken up at analysis needed on all of our parts, and don't want to 7 8 another time?" I've just been sort of stewing over that 8 launch into it today. 9 in my own mind for the last few minutes. I know it was 9 There are a couple of things that would 10 submitted on September -- excuse me, December 12th. I 10 help to clarify, really, let the parties know that we 11 don't know if the OCA received a copy of it? 11 would find it useful to clarify as you go through the 12 (Atty. Chamberlin nodding in the 12 discovery process. And, so, really just to make sure that affirmative.) 13 you know a couple of things that occurred to us in the 13 14 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Looks like you did. 14 first very quick read through the materials, just let you And, I know, in Mr. Eckberg's testimony, there was a 15 know what we were thinking, and that will help in the 15 16 comment about, you know, not being able to really address 16 discovery, so you're not caught by surprise when we do 17 17 come back to go into it in more detail. I think each, things that haven't yet been received. It has now been both Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Harrington had 18 received, but not for very long. And, whether there's 18 19 been any discovery among the parties on those matters. 19 things they wanted to raise, to just sort of give you a 20 MS. CHAMBERLIN: Your Honor, we were 20 heads-up. CMSR. SCOTT: This may be the same issue 21 going to ask that we address this sometime in the future. 21 22 Because we've read it, but we've done no discovery, and we 22 for both of us. As you move forward, I would just ask the don't really have time to do an analysis of it. 23 23 Company to, in the filing you gave us a little lot of 24 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Ms. Amidon. 24 metrics, and we certainly appreciate it, what you've done {DE 12-292} {12-18-12} {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

[WITNESS PANEL: Baumann~White~Hall]

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MS. AMIDON: Thank you. I would echo that. And, our approach, as Staff, is that we, obviously, didn't have time to look at it, when we have an Energy Service rate that they want for effect January 1. And, as this docket continues into 2013, we believe it will be appropriate to make inquiry of it, and perhaps have some kind of recommendation in the mid year review or the mid year adjustment to the rates. And, we briefly sort of aired that with everyone, which is why we, the Consumer Advocate mentioned that, we envision this going forward and being able to take more careful examination going forward. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Mr. Fossum, any

thoughts on that to add or --

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MR. FOSSUM: No. That is accurate. That was shared with us, the desire to continue reviewing this, the report, going forward, with a potential recommendation or discussion sometime down the road.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Let's take a short break, and we'll talk about that among ourselves as well. Thank you. Let's resume, actually, in ten minutes, at 11:45.

> (Recess taken at 11:37 a.m. and the hearing resumed at 11:50 a.m.) {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

here. It would be helpful for the Commission to -- if the

2 Company could make an attempt to look at and give us,

basically, a frame of reference. So, what do other

4 companies, to the extent of your knowledge, do for these

5 different metrics that you've discussed. Certainly, the

6 closer you can get to New Hampshire and your competition,

7 so to speak, that that would be helpful. Obviously, you

8 have other sister/brother entities in the region,

9 certainly could do that, I'm sure, also. So, it would be

10 helpful just to have a baseline of that type of

11 information, if that's clear enough. I can go into more 12

details, if you need it.

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MR. FOSSUM: I guess I would be curious, since it's a generation report, and you said, you know, the Company has sister companies in the area, none of which own generation, though. So, I'm not sure what comparisons it is that you'd be looking for us to make there.

CMSR. SCOTT: All right. I'll be more specific, so thank you. The last thing I want is you to walk away with a big question mark in your mind, which I may cause anyway. So, on the generation side, to the extent you can, and I know merchant plants are, again, it may not be public, but, to the extent you can compare some {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

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of the data you've provided to a comparable merchant plant, that's important to us.

Less generally, your labor costs, that type of thing, and, you're right, it has to do with generation. But, if there are other type of overhead-type things that you can compare to your sister companies, and if that's not -- you don't feel that's constructive, that's fine also. But I was really looking for something we could look at to judge against others, if that makes

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Commissioner

Harrington.

sense.

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CMSR. HARRINGTON: Yes. Just to sort of follow up on that, I feel the same thing that Commissioner Scott did, that, you know, you need to look at your competition in this market, what sets the price that we talked, of the \$48, is being set by merchant plants. And, whether we -- everybody likes it or doesn't like it, that's the way the market works in New England. So, I think that's what you need to compare to. There's certainly a large number of, for example, oil plants that have a very low capacity factor, even lower than the proposal for Newington. How much do they reduce staff? What do they do with maintenance requirements? Have they

operating 100 percent of the days, is that what that implies, even though your capacity factor would be very, very low? So, maybe for consistency, this seems to be a new term, if you could stick with the standard definition of "capacity factors", rather than this new one, or at least define what this new one is, it would help me out. And, thanks for putting up with all my coughing, by the wav.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: One other, just clarifying thing. On the Pages 10 through 12, there are a number of graphs. And, I'm sure, in color, it's clear which is which, but, in black and white, it's a little mysterious. Do the numbers -- do the lines follow the order, you know, to the right, is it "Merrimack", "Schiller", "Newington", and "Totals", do the lines depicted follow that same pattern or do they move up and down? They all look the same to me.

MS. TILLOTSON: You want an answer? The totals would typically be on the top. So, even though it's listed on the bottom, that -- so, no, they don't go together. Sorry.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: So, maybe, if it's possible, to resubmit at some point, with either one in color or change to some sort of hash marks across them or {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

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been able to cut their operating costs substantially, simply because they're not running very often? So, those are the type of things that we need to be looking at there. There's other coal plants in New England that have had a major reduction in capacity factor as well. What kind of reaction have they taken? I don't know how much of this information is public, but, to the best you could, to provide that would be very helpful.

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

One other, just as a question on the report, without getting into specifics or anything confidential, I'm just looking for a definition. On Page 3, it says "Overview: Capacity factor discussions". And, on the top of the page, it talks about "high capacity factor", and then goes into Newington Station historically. And, you're talking what I assume is the standard use of the word "capacity factor". How many hours do you run at what percentage of full power in the course of a year? And, then, down the bottom of the page, sort of a new term comes out that I'm not that familiar with, where you talk about Newington's operation "45 to 50 percent of the days", and Merrimack Unit 1 and 2 from "60 to 70 percent of the days". So, I just would like to see that defined. And, I could guess to mean, if you operated one hour in each day for a year, you would be {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

something, so that we can follow. You don't need to print everything in color, that's expensive. But something to differentiate would be helpful. Thank you.

We have the OCA calling Mr. Eckberg in this case, correct?

MS. CHAMBERLIN: Yes.

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MR. FOSSUM: Before continuing, may I ask one process question about this report is, the request itself from the Commission was set out in an order, and was very particular to PSNH and PSNH's operations, materials, and capital costs. And, it sounds like now you're looking for a comparison with other companies or other entities and additional information. Will there be an additional order that comes out that sort of explains this differently, in light of the questions that you have about the report?

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: That wasn't our intent. It was really to be able to have some sort of a benchmark to compare, put the submission in context with other units. If you feel you don't have that information, we can explore other ways to obtain it.

MR. FOSSUM: No, no. As I said, it was a process question mostly. Because the way that I had read the Commission's request before, it was very

	65		[WITNESS: Eckberg] 67
1	particular to PSNH's costs and what those costs are, and	1	to OCA 01-002, is that correct?
2	that's what we had provided. So, to the extent that it's	2	MS. CHAMBERLIN: That's correct. Right?
3	a comparison of PSNH's costs to some other costs, that's	3	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. And, I
4	what I was curious as to if you'd prefer not to issue	4	appreciate you digging that out. And, we will mark this
5	that as part of a separate order, we can simply issue an	5	as Exhibit 5.
6	addendum to the report for some additional information or	6	(The document, as described, was
7	to just expand the report and resubmit it, we can do that.	7	herewith marked as Exhibit 5 for
8	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. And,	8	identification.)
9	we'll consider your question, whether we should have an	9	MS. CHAMBERLIN: We're going to assume
10	order. I don't think it was a conclusion that you weren't	10	that everyone has read the testimony, and we'll forgo a
11	in compliance or there was something inadequate in the	11	summary, unless you wish it?
12	filing. It's just, as we looked at it, realized that that	12	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Can you speak into
13	context was important.	13	the microphone?
14	All right. Anything further? I think	14	MS. CHAMBERLIN: Oh.
15	our hope is to plow forward right now, call Mr. Eckberg,	15	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.
16	not take a lunch break, and see if we wrap up without need	16	MS. CHAMBERLIN: Would the Commission
17	to take a break. Is that acceptable to everyone?	17	like a summary of the testimony or are you fine?
18	MS. CHAMBERLIN: That's fine.	18	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I think everyone has
19	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Good.	19	read it, I know everyone's read it. So, I don't think we
20	Then, Ms. Chamberlin.	20	need to do a summary.
21	(Whereupon Stephen R. Eckberg was duly	21	MS. CHAMBERLIN: Then, I would make
22	sworn by the Court Reporter.)	22	Mr. Eckberg available for cross-examination.
23	STEPHEN R. ECKBERG, SWORN	23	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Mr.
24	DIRECT EXAMINATION	24	Fossum.
	{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}
	[WITNESS: Eckberg] 66		[WITNESS: Eckberg] 68
1	BY MS. CHAMBERLIN:	1	MR. FOSSUM: Thank you. I just had a
2	Q. Mr. Eckberg, please state your name and position for	2	few clarifying questions for Mr. Eckberg.

3 **CROSS-EXAMINATION** 3 the record. My name is Stephen R. Eckberg. I'm employed by the 4 BY MR. FOSSUM: A. 5 Office of Consumer Advocate. 5 In your testimony, you had noted a couple of things Q. And, did you file testimony in this docket on 6 that you had concern about, and you were waiting for 6 November 21st, 2012? 7 more information. So, I would just like to ask about Yes, I did. 8 those very briefly. The first one that I'm looking at 9 Q. And, do you have any changes to make to that testimony? is on Page 4 of your testimony. And, on Lines 15 to 9 10 19, you noted a concern about the "increase in property 10 A. No, I do not. MS. CHAMBERLIN: I'd ask that this be 11 taxes for Merrimack Station that may be related 11 12 submitted as the next exhibit, "Exhibit 4". 12 to...the Clean Air Project". Has that concern been 13 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: So marked. 13 addressed by the Company? (The document, as described, was 14 14 Yes. As you correctly stated, at the time I prepared herewith marked as Exhibit 4 for my testimony, we were waiting for additional 15 15 identification.) 16 16 information from the Company. And, additional tech MS. CHAMBERLIN: And, I'll go ahead and 17 17 session data responses were provided by the Company. 18 do this now. At the request of the Commission, I think 18 And, one of those responses addressed this issue. And, 19 everybody already has copies of this, but this is the 19 the Company replied, in fact, that the increase in 20 response to OCA 1 of 1 -- 002 of 01. So, we will hand 20 property taxes that was observed, that was of concern, that out. 21 21 was related to an increase in the property tax rates 22 (Atty. Chamberlin distributing 22 for 2013, rather than any increase in the plant value 23 documents.) 23 for -- that may have been related to the Clean Air CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: This is the response 24 24 Project. So, that response did alleviate my concern on {DE 12-292} {12-18-12} {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

		[WITNESS: Eckberg] 69		[WITNESS: Eckberg] 71
1		that issue, yes.	1	that I am comfortable with the numbers that are in the
2	Q.	Thank you. And, I think, similarly, going onto the	2	filing now. And, I don't need to I don't feel the
3		next page, you had mentioned a concern about "possible	3	need to make any recommendation to change the amounts
4		payroll tax increases". And, has the Company addressed	4	that are included in the filing.
5		that concern as well?	5	MR. FOSSUM: Thank you. I have nothing
6	A.	To the best of my knowledge, I don't believe that any	6	further at this time.
7		additional information was provided by the Company on	7	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Ms.
8		that issue. Though, there were I may be in error	8	Amidon.
9		there, and you're welcome to correct me. Looks like	9	MS. AMIDON: We have no questions for
10		I'm about to be corrected.	10	Mr. Eckberg.
11	Q.	I'll just provide this to you. Tell me what that	11	CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right.
12		document is.	12	Questions from Commissioners? I have a question about a
13	A.	This looks to be the Company's response to Tech Session	13	couple of things of the clarifications you just made.
14		Question 1-3.	14	BY CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS:
15	Q.	And, does that address the payroll tax issue from your	15	Q. On the depreciation, on Page 6 of your testimony, you
16		testimony?	16	described that, because of certain changes to
17	A.	It does address this issue, generally, yes. It may	17	depreciation rates, the overall impact was a reduction
18		very well be the case that, in reading the many data	18	in depreciation expense, but that, for Schiller
19		responses and tech session responses, that I missed	19	Station, there was an increase. Is that something
20		this one. But this is that is certainly the subject	20	that, the clarification you just went through with Mr.
21		of this response, yes.	21	Fossum, which we haven't seen, is it does it explain
22	Q.	Okay. Thank you. I don't have any particular question	22	how that happens, that some things going down, some
23		on it. I just wanted to make sure that the Company had	23	things going up, or were some of the number assumptions
24		indeed addressed the concern that you had raised?	24	not correct?
		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}		{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

[WITNESS: Eckberg]

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I can confirm that by looking at that response, yes.

Thank you. And, again, just, as I say, just going

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[WITNESS: Eckberg]

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right down your testimony and the concern that you raised, a little lower on Page 5, you had raised a concern about "depreciation costs" for Schiller Station. Has the Company addressed that concern as I did have -- I do have that response. And, indeed, the Company did provide some additional information about the depreciation amounts in their response, Tech Session 1-1, a supplemental response that they provided to that. And, I would say that, generally, they did address the issue. I think that I still have some outstanding questions about this issue. But I understand that the Energy Service rate that is under consideration here today is comprised of the Company's best estimates for a number, a large number of ingredients that go into that rate. And, whereas the Commission has directed its Staff to engage in a specific review of depreciation costs in the reconciliation docket for 2012, which is not yet filed, I believe that there will be certainly plenty of additional opportunities to review these numbers for 2012, as well as for 2013 ongoing. So, I would say {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

Well, the explanation that was provided by the Company said that there was no change to the depreciation rate for Schiller Station, which the Company has confirmed in other responses, and I believe actually an attachment to my testimony, Attachment SRE-5, which would be Bates Page 25, the next to last page of my testimony package. This is a data response from a prior Energy Service docket, last year. And, where the Company -- where we got more information about the changes to average year of final retirement for certain generation plants. And, the reader can see that, on Line 8 here, for instance, the Schiller Station shows no change in the average year final retirement. That means that there was no change to the depreciation rate or the period over which the remaining asset value is going to be depreciated. However, this supplemental response that the Company provided indicated that there was a change to the book value of the Schiller Station plant. And, that is one of those areas where I would, you know, seek to get some more information from the Company in future proceedings. This docket will remain open, and we'll probably have an opportunity to pursue that further, or we'll have an opportunity to inquire about that in the reconciliation docket for 2012 as

73 75 [WITNESS: Eckberg] well. 1 on the Motion for Confidential Treatment of the materials 1 2 Q. All right. And, the payroll tax issue that you said 2 submitted in response to the Commission's request on 3 was resolved with further discovery information, since 3 generation costs. Thank you for submitting a Motion for we haven't seen that, and it's all right, you don't 4 Confidential Treatment. And, do the OCA and Staff have 4 5 need to make that an exhibit, but can you just 5 positions on whether confidentiality is appropriate? 6 summarize what the resolution of your concern now is? 6 MS. CHAMBERLIN: Your Honor, I have to 7 Well, Mr. Fossum provided the response for me. I 7 A. say I did not analyze it with that question in mind. It 8 looked at it briefly. And, I can see, as I tried to 8 looked to me that, you know, quite a bit of it is 9 indicate in my statement a few moments ago, that it 9 non-confidential, but I did not parse it. And, would be 10 interested in meeting with the Company to see if we could 10 seems clear that the Company was responsive and 11 provided some additional information. But I haven't 11 at least agree on certain areas. 12 looked at it extensively in response to Mr. Fossum's 12 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: One second. question. I was indicating that the Company was 13 (Cmsr. Scott and Chairman Ignatius 13 14 responsive to the issue that I raised. 14 conferring.) So, I guess I don't know -- I don't have CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Mr. Fossum. 15 15 16 an exact further clarification on the information that 16 MR. FOSSUM: I was just thinking that 17 was provided in that response. I don't feel able to 17 the Company, to the extent that the OCA and/or the Staff would like to discuss further possible revisions to the 18 expound upon that for you further at the moment. 18 19 Q. So, is there still a concern for this docket or is this 19 report to provide some public information, the Company is 20 still one of the items to make note of for future --20 willing to have that conversation certainly. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. I think 21 the reconciliation docket, perhaps, the issue of 21 22 payroll taxes? 22 we would welcome that in any filing, to try to make it a 23 A. I would say that I would continue to look at this issue 23 redacted document, rather the entire document, and that

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[WITNESS: Eckberg]

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

and examine it a little further as future opportunities

arise. I know there's certainly plenty of information

in the general press about changes in tax rates

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potentially coming January 1st. And, so, I don't know whether the Company has included some possible impact of that. I think that we know that there's a very high likelihood that Social Security taxes or FICA taxes will increase by about two percent. And, so, one of the components that they may refer to in this increased payroll taxes might be related to that. It's all about that "fiscal cliff" thing that we've been hearing a lot about. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Those are my questions. Anything further from the Commissioners? (No verbal response) CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: No. Any redirect, Ms. Chamberlin? MS. CHAMBERLIN: No. Nothing further.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Then,

don't you just stay where you are. The only procedural matters that I'm aware of before we conclude have to do with, obviously, the exhibits, but also whether the parties have positions {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

you're excused. Thank you, Mr. Eckberg. Although, why

1 protect. So, it may be not all that useful in the

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

redacted version, but still to try to -- to try to limit 3 the amounts protected as much as possible. So, I'd

4 welcome that. And, then, maybe people can submit in

some -- much of this it seems to me appropriate to

5 writing, if they have -- if there's a revised version and 6

any responses people want to submit in response to that, 7 before we rule on it, on the motion. Prior to completion

8 of that process, we will keep it confidential. That's

9 always our practice, that it not be released during the

10 pendency of sorting out the appropriate level of

11 confidentiality.

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Is there any objection to striking the identification on the exhibits?

(No verbal response)

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Seeing none, we will

make them full exhibits. Are there any other matters to

take up before closings?

MS. CHAMBERLIN: Your Honor, I have one.

19 And, it is a request, essentially, to the Commission to 20 address RSA 378:40. This was an issue that was raised in 21 a filing in the Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan. And,

22 it just states that "no rate change shall be approved with

23 respect to any utility that does not have an IRP plan

24 filed and approved." However, the Commission has the

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

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authority to waive that. And, so, since it has been more than two years since they filed the IRP filing, to keep us statutorily and procedurally in line, I would simply ask that the Commission exercise its authority to either direct PSNH to file a new plan or to suspend -- to allow rate changes to take place, even though the integrated rate plan is over two years old.

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CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: It's actually a funny statute, because I think it says "changes have to be in conformance with the last plan approved", not necessarily the last plan "submitted". And, so, it's a little bit odd as it was drafted. But it's a very good point. I think we're a little behind in getting that order out on the LCIRP docket, and working to be able to issue it. Asking for a new plan right now I don't think serves anyone's purposes. And, it -- we have not gone -it's a good point, we have not gone into questions of witnesses today on whether the plan -- that the rate changes that are requested are in accordance with the last plan that was filed and reviewed.

I suppose we have a couple of choices. One is to recall a witness and address that. The request that we waive the requirement, we couldn't do, because we have a statute. Or a rule, we can waive a rule, but we {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

strike a filing that they had made. Their statements about "PSNH not being in compliance for having not filed a plan within two years", we've not really had a chance to review those meaningfully. They don't appear to have any bearing whatsoever on the motion to strike, that at least it would presume to be their genesis. So, you know, the nature of that request and where that came from and why that's all of a sudden a front and center issue before the Commission is not entirely clear to us at the moment.

That said, while, again, we haven't had time to fully review this issue, there was not, to my reading, any place in that statute that indicated when the two years begins to run. And, if it is, in fact, two years between dates of filing, then, yes, more than two years has passed. But, if it's two years from the date of the most recently approved Commission plan, we filed our previous plan in 2010. It's still pending. It's pending review. To file another plan now, before that review has been finished, and we know what the Commission is expecting of us for future filings, I think would serve no practical purpose whatsoever. So, those are some other issues that are bound up in this request. And, so, to deny PSNH the opportunity to have a rate change in that circumstance would seem to be at least unfair.

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

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can't waive a statute. So, and I think we, at times, are more focused on this provision than others, and at times we think to ask it and at times we do not. One second. (Chairman and Commissioners conferring.) CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Everyone's been madly flipping through -- now you can go sit down. MR. ECKBERG: Thank you, madam Chairman. I was hoping I wouldn't get any questions about that new CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: We've all been flipping through the statute. And, I think you really

need to read 378:40 and 378:41 together, that -- to be able to make sense of what, to the extent you can, make sense of what this is requiring, it helps. Mr. Fossum, it looks like you do have a

view on this, before I go any further?

MR. FOSSUM: Well, I have a view sitting here right now, you know, subject to further discussion and research that may be appropriate. My understanding about the issue in the Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan came up in a filing from Conservation Law Foundation that was made yesterday. And, as I understand the nature of that filing, that was made in response to our motion to

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Well, I don't think anyone's suggesting that. I think it was, and I don't know, I haven't looked at the other filing, and I want to keep that very separate, because Commissioner Scott is not a part of that other docket, but assuming it's -- well, maybe I've got the wrong docket, I don't know.

MR. FOSSUM: It's 2010 -- or, DE 10-261.

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CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Oh. All right. I was assuming a different docket. So, I think that the real question today is, for full conformance with the statutory requirements, and there are times where we have inquired in any rate change proceeding the relationship between the request and the Least Cost Plan on file, we haven't done that in this case. And, in some we have -sometimes we do and sometimes we don't, and that's our problem, that we should be more consistent on.

I think the only question is today, what -- how best to complete the record? Not to require a new filing or to reject the petition in this docket. So, my thought is to ask one of your witnesses to take the stand who could address, and if you look particularly at 378:41, the extent to which the request the Company's made today, and in the 292 -- 291 docket we heard earlier this morning, that the request is in conformance with the Least

Cost Integrated Resource Plan most recently filed and 1 the evidence that's submitted, or even to have some found adequate by the Commission, which would refer you 2 further recalling of witnesses and questioning. But I back to the prior -- the prior filing, not the one that's 3 don't -- my sense is it's not an issue that really calls 4 currently pending. for that 5 MR. FOSSUM: I suppose we could do that. MS. CHAMBERLIN: No, I don't think so We don't have anybody here today who's particularly 6 either. Well, it's hard to make a decision with not familiar with our existing and approved Least Cost 7 knowing what they're going to file. But I see it from my Integrated Resource Plan. So, to the extent that you'd be 8 -- primarily as a procedural one. I'm not looking for looking for any specifics, I don't know that we could 9 them to file another IRP before they can get this rate. I provide them as we sit here today. 10 just wanted to be, you know, to get things in order and to So, you know, I don't know, we could 11 keep things moving forward, and that was my intent. provide a statement perhaps later today from somebody more 12 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Okay. Thank you. familiar, you know. Yes. I'm not exactly sure what else 13 (Chairman and Commissioners conferring.) to offer right at the moment. I don't -- I don't know 14 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. We've that the Company could, in good faith, offer somebody to 15 got two different ideas to throw out as a way to wrap this make that representation at this moment. 16 up. One would be to forgo oral closings today, give (Chairman and Commissioners conferring.) 17 everyone an opportunity, within a couple of days of MS. CHAMBERLIN: Your Honor, if I may? receipt of the record request we just spoke about, to 18 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Yes, please. 19 submit a written closing, and in that address any MS. CHAMBERLIN: My intent was to 20 responses that they feel they need to say, having seen the forestall a collateral attack on whatever order is issued, 21 Company submission. The alternative would be to, in essentially. I certainly don't have any objection to the 22 addition to reserving the record request for the Company's Company bringing the -- you know, making a filing from 23 submission, to set aside a exhibit, to the extent anyone someone who's best, you know, who can best do it in a 24 wants to respond, from OCA or Staff, to the Company's {DE 12-292} {12-18-12} {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

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work for everyone?

anything about it?

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effect is. I don't know that you need -- that you want that. But, if you do, I'd certainly do that. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Well, I appreciate that. Our thought had been to, rather than have someone take the stand today, to offer to do it through a record request, if that's agreeable to the parties. There's no opportunity for questioning on it. And, so, that's the only issue, if that would be a concern. But, if not, then to do it through a record request, submit it in the next few days would be acceptable to us. Is there any --MR. FOSSUM: We are willing to do that. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Okay. Does that MS. CHAMBERLIN: So, the record request would come in and we would not have an opportunity to say CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: That's the difficulty in doing it through a record request. There's no cross-examination. We could further expand the record by an opportunity for people to respond through briefs to {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

short turnaround. I also -- I learned about this statute,

yesterday. And, in reading it, I realized that it had an

this is new for me, too. I learn about the statute

effect. I'm also happy to write up what I think the

two additional exhibits, if people felt the need to respond to that, and go forward with oral closings this afternoon. Because of the timing and trying to meet a January 1 date, we just don't have a lot of days to work with, and know that people are maybe traveling over Christmas Holiday and that sort of thing. So, do you have a preference on the two? We can do either one. MS. AMIDON: Staff prefers oral closing. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: And, just the opportunity, if you felt the need to respond to the Company's submission, to submit your own? MS. AMIDON: Yes. MS. CHAMBERLIN: OCA will agree with CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Is that all right with the Company? MR. FOSSUM: That's fine. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Okay. Let's do that then. So, we'll set aside Exhibit 6 for the Company

submission. And, then, to the extent OCA or Staff want to

submit, the OCA would be 7 and Staff would be 8. All

right. And, if there's no need to submit, you don't need

exhibit, so that there's both, you know, there could be

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{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

to use your number.

85 (Exhibit 6, Exhibit 7, and Exhibit 8 1 But that it just needs to move. 1 2 were reserved.) 2 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Are you recommending 3 3 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Let's go a different rate for January 1st? 4 MS. CHAMBERLIN: I cannot recommend a 4 then to Ms. Chamberlin for a closing statement. 5 5 MS. CHAMBERLIN: Thank you, your Honor. different rate, because I don't have any indication that 6 If I were looking at this filing from a vertically 6 the rate that they are proposing is not consistent with 7 integrated utility that did not have any competition, I Default Energy Service rates. All their components seem 7 8 would have very few problems with it. The information 8 to add up. My issue is the larger -- the larger issue, 9 that I received certainly is consistent with market data 9 the structural one, which is not specifically at issue in 10 and other information that I have reviewed and my staff 10 this case, but is really the overall problem with the 11 has reviewed. 11 rates. My ongoing problem is that we've got a 12 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Ms. 12 large amount of older generation, which has now become 13 **Amidon** 13 14 peaking generation, essentially. The cost of that 14 MS. AMIDON: Thank you. Staff has generation being borne by an ever-diminishing number of 15 reviewed the filing, and has determined that the Company 15 16 people. And, just that inverted triangle is -- it's an 16 calculated the Energy Service rate for 2013 as they have 17 unjust -- it results in an unjust rate. It's an unjust 17 in the past. But we can't ignore the fact that the concept. It's simply -- it's neither -- it's neither resulting rate is above market, and that is of concern for 18 18 19 competition nor regulation. And, that has to -- we have 19 customers of PSNH. 20 to move out of that. 20 And, further, you know, if customer 21 And, my example I think of is, you know, 21 migration continues to be an issue, we are concerned that 22 my mom, who is 80 years old, and she's on a fixed income, 22 there will be an additional increase as time goes by. 23 and she's paying her electric rate, and she's probably not 23 However, insofar as the rate proposed for January 1 in the 24 going to switch, even if I told her to. She should not 24 December 12th filing, we have no objection to that. {DE 12-292} {12-18-12} {DE 12-292} {12-18-12} 86 88 have to pay for the Merrimack Station and the Schiller 1 CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. Mr. Station. That's simply -- that simply is not correct. 2 2 Fossum. The fact now that there are competitive 3 MR. FOSSUM: Thank you. Just briefly. 4 While we understand the concerns of the OCA and Staff, options for residential ratepayers is a good thing. 5 and, to a degree, share them ourselves, this is a docket 5 Absolutely, there's some more options, people are exercising them. As the witness said, the rate of 6 to set PSNH's proposed Energy Service rate going forward. 6

migration is going up. I would argue that it's likely to continue to go up when the rates increase even further. They're getting further away from the market price and 10 they're getting more and more top heavy. And, people are 11 going to really dig in and look at their options. 12 I don't think there's a magic number, 13 once we hit X rate, it's no longer fair. I think the 14 situation is unfair. Where the industrial customers have 15 all left already, they're not sharing this cost. It may 16 be, and it likely is, that these coal plants have some 17 value, but to have that value borne by primarily the 18 residential ratepayers is unjust and unreasonable. 19 As I said, the actual -- the actual 20 filing, when we look at its components, it's a reasonable 21 filing. It's consistent with the information I'm aware 22 of. But it's the overall structure that cannot -- cannot 23 continue. And, exactly when that changes? The sooner the 24 better. Will it change by January 1? No, probably not.

{DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

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7 And, as you've heard, PSNH has done so in a manner 8 consistent with that which it has done in the past, and 9 has done so based on the costs that are part of its 10 structure. So, to that extent, PSNH would request that 11 the Energy Service rate as proposed be permitted to go 12 into effect January 1st. Thank you. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: All right. Unless 13 14 there's anything further, we will take it under 15 advisement. Excuse me, Commissioner Harrington. 16 CMSR. HARRINGTON: The record request on 17 the Least Cost Integrated Plan, when will we expect to see 18 that? 19 MR. FOSSUM: My hope would be before the 20 close of business tomorrow. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you. That's 21 22 fine. Then, we will take it under advisement. We know 23 that there's a January 1 date for this, which we will 24 meet. And, we appreciate everyone's time and attention in {DE 12-292} {12-18-12}

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1	sorting out a couple of unusual things today. Thank you.	
2	We're closed.	
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