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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

October 26, 2015 - 10:05 a.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

NHPUC NOV09'15 PM 1:11

RE: DE 15-415
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY:
Proposed Default Energy Service Rate
for 2016. (Prehearing conference)

PRESENT: David K. Wiesner, Esq.
(Presiding as Hearings Examiner)

Sandy Deno, Clerk

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Public Service Co. of New Hampshire
d/b/a Eversource Energy:
Matthew J. Fossum, Esq.

Reptg. PUC Staff:
Suzanne G. Amidon, Esq.
Grant Siwinski, Electric Division

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

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STATEMENTS OF PRELIMINARY POSITION BY:

Mr. Fossum

4

Ms. Amidon

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P R O C E E D I N G

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2 HEARINGS EXAMINER WIESNER: Good
3 morning. I'm Dave Wiesner. I'm one of the Hearings
4 Examiners here at the Commission. I've been designated to
5 serve as Presiding Officer for this docket, DE 15-415,
6 which is the filing by PSNH, doing business as Eversource,
7 for its Default Service rate for 2016.

8 I don't believe there are any pending
9 motions to intervene or any other matters we need to
10 address. So, I'll just begin by taking appearances from
11 the parties.

12 MR. FOSSUM: Good morning. Matthew
13 Fossum, here for Public Service Company of New Hampshire,
14 doing business as Eversource Energy. With me this morning
15 is Chris Goulding, from the Company.

16 HEARINGS EXAMINER WIESNER: Thank you.
17 Good morning.

18 MS. AMIDON: Good morning. I'm Suzanne
19 Amidon, for Commission Staff. And, with me at counsel's
20 table is Grant Siwinski, an analyst in the Electric
21 Division.

22 And, I just would offer that the OCA has
23 entered a letter of participation. I believe that they
24 are involved in a proceeding that is taking place in

1 Room A. And, so, I'm not surprised that they have no one
2 here this morning.

3 HEARINGS EXAMINER WIESNER: Okay. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. AMIDON: You're welcome.

6 HEARINGS EXAMINER WIESNER: I'd ask the
7 Company to offer its initial position.

8 MR. FOSSUM: Thank you. And, I'll be
9 very brief. Consistent with our prior practice, we have
10 submitted our request for a change to our Default Service
11 or Energy Service rate for January 1st, 2016. It's been
12 calculated and presented in a manner similar to the way
13 that this rate has been traditionally calculated and
14 presented.

15 The only nuance that I'll note for the
16 record in this particular case is that, as has been set
17 out both in the testimony and in the Petition, for the
18 last few years the calculation of the rate has included
19 what I'll refer to as a "Scrubber adder", a set amount of
20 0.98 cents per kilowatt-hour. What's different about this
21 filing is that, instead of using that adder to calculate
22 this preliminary rate, the Company has used an all-in
23 Scrubber adder to reflect full recovery of the Scrubber
24 and deferred balance. So, that is included in the

1 calculation of this preliminary rate, and will be updated
2 as necessary pending events relating to, well, I guess, to
3 how that adder is calculated and applied, which are
4 actually ongoing in real time in other dockets.

5 That said, we presented a preliminary
6 rate, which we will update closer to the date of hearing,
7 consistent with prior practice. And, we look forward to
8 working with the Company and the -- or, with the, I'm
9 sorry, with Staff and the OCA to work through any issues
10 of discovery, and to present an appropriate rate for the
11 Commission's approval in December. Thank you.

12 HEARINGS EXAMINER WIESNER: And,
13 Ms. Amidon.

14 MS. AMIDON: Thank you. We have not
15 taken a position on the filing at present. And, I would
16 agree with the Company that the principal issue that is
17 different from the prior filings is the inclusion of what
18 is anticipated to be full recovery of Scrubber costs.

19 As you may know, Attorney Wiesner, there
20 are two dockets pending. One is 11-250, which was an
21 investigation of the cost recovery of the Scrubber; the
22 Commission suspended that docket pending resolution in
23 docket 14-238, which is -- originally was, I guess, an
24 economic evaluation of PSNH's generation assets, and now

1 that has turned into a potential divestiture proceeding,
2 which would include resolution of the Scrubber docket.

3 So, at this point, the Commission has
4 ordered a temporary Scrubber recovery rate of 0.98 cents
5 per kilowatt-hour. I don't see how that can change until
6 something is resolved in either of those two dockets.

7 So -- but we'll work with the Company and with the OCA on
8 that issue, and other issues in the docket. Thank you.

9 HEARINGS EXAMINER WIESNER: And, that
10 has been the subject of discovery and will be going
11 forward?

12 MS. AMIDON: We will probably have to do
13 discovery on the Scrubber costs, yes, if that continues to
14 be part of this proceeding. I think that there's too many
15 moving parts in the other proceedings before the
16 Commission, if we can determine whether they can actually
17 include full recovery in this docket on January 1, 2016.
18 That's uncertain to me. So, we'll see what happens.

19 HEARINGS EXAMINER WIESNER: And, the
20 parties will have a technical session to follow during
21 which a procedural schedule will be developed for this
22 docket?

23 MS. AMIDON: Yes. And, as a matter of
24 fact, I distributed a proposed schedule to the parties

1 last week. So, hopefully, we can resolve that fairly
2 quickly.

3 HEARINGS EXAMINER WIESNER: And, that
4 will result in a report to the Commission proposing a
5 procedural schedule?

6 MS. AMIDON: That's correct. I will
7 file a report with the Commission. Thank you.

8 HEARINGS EXAMINER WIESNER: Thank you.
9 Is there any other matters we need to address?

10 *[No verbal response]*

11 HEARINGS EXAMINER WIESNER: I don't
12 believe there are. If there are none, I will close the
13 record for this prehearing conference. Thank you.

14 **(Whereupon the prehearing conference was**
15 **adjourned at 10:10 a.m., and a technical**
16 **session was held thereafter.)**

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