

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

May 25, 2016 - 9:02 a.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

NHPUC JUN13'16 AM 9:37

RE: DG 16-294
CONCORD STEAM CORPORATION:
Request for Change in Rates.
(Non-prehearing conference)

PRESENT: Chairman Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding
Commissioner Robert R. Scott
Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey

Sandy Deno, Clerk

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Concord Steam Corporation:
Susan Geiger, Esq. (Orr & Reno)

Reptg. PUC Staff:
Alexander F. Speidel, Esq.
Mark Naylor, Dir./Gas & Water Div.
Stephen Frink, Asst. Dir./Gas & Water
Robert Wyatt, Asst. Dir./Safety Div.

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



ORIGINAL

P R O C E E D I N G

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We're here this morning in Docket DG 16-294, which is Concord Steam Corporation's Petition for a Permanent Rate Increase. We suspended the tariffs that had been filed for investigation and scheduled a prehearing conference for today, which is I thought the reason why we were going to be here, but it appears we're not.

Who would like to put on the record the reason that there's not going to be a prehearing conference this morning?

Ms. Geiger.

MS. GEIGER: Yes. Thank you, Chairman Honigberg. Susan Geiger, from the law firm of Orr & Reno, representing Concord Steam Corporation. I filed an appearance yesterday.

As indicated in the Commission's Order of Notice, the Company was to have published the Order of Notice by May 20th. Unfortunately, through accident, mistake or misfortune, that task fell through the cracks. And, so, the Order of Notice on the filing was not published.

1 In light of that, the Company would
2 request that this hearing be suspended or
3 delayed, and that we resume at some point in
4 the future, in the near future, because I
5 guess, fortunately, the Company is going to be
6 revising its filing. And, so, it really
7 doesn't make sense to publish the Order of
8 Notice that reflects rates that are going to be
9 superseded or updated, if you will, due to new
10 events.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I got ahead of
12 myself and should have taken appearances.
13 Ms. Geiger entered her appearance orally, and I
14 know we got the written filing yesterday.

15 Mr. Speidel, you want to identify
16 yourself and your team there?

17 MR. SPEIDEL: Yes. Alexander
18 Speidel, representing the Staff of the
19 Commission. And I have Director Mark Naylor of
20 the Gas and Water Division, Assistant Director
21 Steve Frink of the Gas and Water Division, and
22 Assistant Director Robert Wyatt of the Safety
23 Division.

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So, Mr. Speidel,

1 any comment on Ms. Geiger's statements in how
2 we should proceed?

3 MR. SPEIDEL: Staff thinks that that
4 is a reasonable way to proceed. We will expect
5 that the Company will submit some sort of
6 revised rate filing in the near future. It may
7 implicate either a revision of the current
8 filing or perhaps a withdrawal of one filing
9 and a substitution of another. But we'll just
10 see how events shake out over the next few
11 weeks.

12 And we would expect that this hearing
13 is nonoperative under the Administrative
14 Procedures Act of New Hampshire and that no
15 substantive business should be handled.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I think that's
17 correct. Just I guess I would comment that, to
18 the extent that there are statutory deadlines
19 associated with the suspension of the tariffs
20 that were filed, we need to make sure that we
21 are mindful of those, and that, if withdrawals
22 are appropriate, to avoid triggering something
23 that shouldn't be triggered. I would hope
24 counsel would work that out and we'll be able

1 to go forward from there.

2 All right. With that, we will leave
3 you. I think no other business can be done
4 because of the failure of notice. And we'll
5 adjourn. Thank you.

6 MS. GEIGER: Thank you.

7 ***(Whereupon the non-prehearing***
8 ***conference was adjourned at 9:05***
9 ***a.m.)***