



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE BOARD'S ESTABLISHMENT)	PREHEARING ORDER
OF A GENERIC PROCEEDING TO REVIEW COSTS,)	DOCKET NO. AX13030197
BENEFITS, AND RELIABILITY IMPACTS OF MAJOR)	
STORM EVENT MITIGATION EFFORTS)	
)	
IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF)	DOCKET NO. ER14030250
ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR)	
ESTABLISHMENT OF A STORM HARDENING)	
SURCHARGE)	
)	
)	
)	

Parties of Record:

James Meyer, Esq., Rockland Electric Company
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY COMMISSIONER MARY-ANNA HOLDEN:

By Order dated April 16, 2015 ("April Order"), in response to a petition filed with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") by Rockland Electric Company ("RECO" or "Company") for approval of its Storm Hardening and System Resiliency Programs, the Board retained the matter for hearing, and designated me as the presiding Commissioner with authority to rule on all motions that arise during the proceeding, and to set a schedule that will secure a just and expeditious determination of the issues. Additionally, the April Order set June 5, 2015 as the deadline for the filing of motions to intervene or participate in this matter. No motions were received by that date.

Accordingly, I **HEREBY ISSUE** the following as the prehearing order for this matter:

1. **NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS AND ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED:**

In this proceeding, RECO seeks Board approval of its Storm Hardening and System Resiliency Programs, which propose investment of approximately \$65,000,000 over a 5 year

period, and an associated cost recovery mechanism.

Issues to be Resolved:

- 1) The prudence, cost effectiveness and cost efficiency of the activities and programs proposed by the Storm Hardening and System Resiliency Programs; and
- 2) The reasonableness and lawfulness of the proposed cost recovery mechanism.

2. **PARTIES AND THEIR DESIGNATED ATTORNEYS OR REPRESENTATIVES:**

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No change in designated trial counsel shall be made without leave if such change will interfere with the date for hearing. If no specific counsel is set forth in this Order, any partner or associate may be expected to proceed with evidentiary hearings on the agreed dates.

3. **SPECIAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AS TO NOTICE OF HEARING:**

Two public hearings are scheduled for September 9, 2015 in Mahwah, New Jersey, with sessions at 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

4. **SCHEDULE OF HEARING DATES, TIME AND PLACE:**

Evidentiary hearings will be held in Newark, New Jersey, commencing the week of November 30, 2015, starting at 9:30 AM each day. Dates will be determined based on the availability of the parties and myself.

5. **STIPULATIONS:**

None at this time.

6. **SETTLEMENT:**

Parties are encouraged to engage in settlement discussions. Notice should be provided to all parties of any settlement discussions for the preparation of an agreement to resolve the issues in the case.

7. **AMENDMENTS TO PLEADINGS:**

None at this time.

8. **DISCOVERY AND DATE FOR COMPLETION:**

The time limits for discovery shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 1:1-10.4 or as provided in Exhibit A. Unless I otherwise provide, all discovery shall be completed in accordance with the schedule in Exhibit A.

9. **ORDER OF PROOFS:**

The Company bears the burden of proof. The parties will propose an order of witnesses no later than 1 week prior to the hearings. Witnesses will be presented in the following order, unless otherwise agreed by the parties prior to the hearings:

First – RECO

Second – Rate Counsel

10. **EXHIBITS MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION:**

None at this time.

11. **EXHIBITS MARKED IN EVIDENCE:**

None at this time.

12. **ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FACT AND EXPERT WITNESSES:**

Company has identified 10 witnesses. Rate Counsel has identified three witnesses.

Any party substituting witnesses shall identify such witnesses within 5 days of determining to replace a witness, and in no event later than 5 days before filing of testimony of a

substitute witness. All direct testimony will be pre-filed, and all witnesses submitting pre-filed direct testimony will be subject to cross examination at evidentiary hearings, which will be conducted by topic (e.g., program elements, revenue requirements, and so forth).

13. **MOTIONS:**

No motions to intervene or participate were filed by the deadline of June 5, 2015. There are no other motions pending at this time.

14. **SPECIAL MATTERS:**

None at this time.

15. **SCHEDULE**

See attached Exhibit A.


Consistent with the Board's April Order, I **HEREBY DIRECT** that all documents be served by electronic mail, while still providing hard copies to the Board for those documents which must be filed with the Board, with two (2) hard copies to each party unless otherwise requested.

I **HEREBY DIRECT** that this Order be posted on the Board's website.

This provisional ruling is subject to ratification or other alteration by the Board as it deems appropriate during the proceedings in this matter.

DATED: July 9, 2015

BY:


MARY ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER

SCHEDULE A

Rockland Electric Company Storm Hardening
DOCKET NOs. AX13030197 & ER14030250

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

- June 30, 2015: First round discovery complete
- July 10, 2015: Deadline for second round discovery requests
- July 24, 2015: Second round responses due
- August 3, 2015: Site Visit
- August 3-7, 2015: Discovery Conferences/Settlement Talks
- August 2015: Technical Conference – to be scheduled
- September 4, 2015: Rate Counsel testimony
- September 9, 2015: Public Hearings 3:30 and 6:30 in Mahwah, New Jersey
- September 11, 2015: Discovery on Rate Counsel testimony
- September 23, 2015: Responses to discovery on Rate Counsel testimony
- October 9, 2015: Rebuttal testimony by Company
- October 20, 2015: Discovery on rebuttal testimony due
- October 30, 2015: Responses to discovery on rebuttal testimony due
- November 2, 4, 9 and/or 10¹, 2015: Settlement conferences
- Week of November 30, 2015: Evidentiary hearings with live surrebuttal and rejoinder at 9:30 AM in Newark, NJ (subject to Commissioner's availability)
- Discovery shall proceed on a rolling basis subject to the end dates in this schedule.

¹ Additional dates in November to be scheduled as needed for settlement discussions.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE BOARD'S ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENERIC
PROCEEDING TO REVIEW COSTS, BENEFITS, AND RELIABILITY IMPACTS OF
MAJOR STORM EVENT MITIGATION EFFORTS
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF ROCKLAND ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF A STORM HARDENING SURCHARGE**

DOCKET NOs. AX13030197 & ER140300250

SERVICE LIST

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