

ORIGINAL

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

VERIFIED PETITION OF NORTHEASTERN )
RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP )
CORPORATION REQUESTING THE ) CAUSE NO. 44160
COMMISSION TO APPROVE AN )
ALTERNATIVE REGULATORY PLAN ) APPROVED: APR 18 2012
PURSUANT TO IND. CODE 8-1-2.5-1 ET SEQ. )

PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Presiding Officers:
David E. Ziegner, Commissioner
Loraine L. Seyfried, Chief Administrative Law Judge

On February 27, 2012, Northeastern Rural Electric Membership Corporation ("Petitioner") filed its petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Commission") in this matter.

Pursuant to notice and as provided for in 170 IAC 1-1.1-15, a Prehearing Conference in this Cause was held at 1:00 p.m. on April 10, 2012 in Room 224 of the PNC Center, 101 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. Proofs of publication of the notice of the Prehearing Conference have been incorporated into the record and placed in the official files of the Commission. Petitioner and the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor ("OUCC") appeared and participated at the Prehearing Conference. No members of the general public appeared.

Prior to the opening of the record and with the consent of all parties in attendance, an informal discussion was held regarding procedural and scheduling matters in this Cause. The agreement of the parties was then read into the record.

Based upon the agreement of the parties, the Commission now enters the following Findings and Order which shall become a part of the record in this proceeding:

- 1. Petitioner's Prefiling Date. The Petitioner shall prefile with the Commission its prepared testimony and exhibits constituting its case-in-chief on or before April 27, 2012. Copies of same shall be served upon all parties of record.
2. OUCC's and Intervenors' Prefiling Date. The OUCC and all Intervenors shall prefile with the Commission the prepared testimony and exhibits constituting their respective cases-in-chief on or before July 30, 2012. Copies of same shall be served upon all parties of record.
3. Settlement Hearing. In the event the parties are able to reach an agreement on some or all of the issues in this Cause, a settlement hearing shall be convened at 9:30 a.m. on July 30, 2012 in Room 224 of the PNC Center, 101 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. At least five

(5) business days prior to the settlement hearing, the parties shall either notify the Commission that the parties have not reached settlement or file any settlement agreement reached by the parties and the evidence in support thereof.

4. **Petitioner's Rebuttal Prefiling.** The Petitioner shall prefile with the Commission its prepared rebuttal testimony on or before August 13, 2012. Copies of same shall be served upon all parties of record.

5. **Evidentiary Hearing on the Parties' Cases-In-Chief.** In the event this Cause is not settled the cases-in-chief of the Petitioner, the OUCC and any Intervenors shall be presented in an evidentiary hearing to commence at 9:30 on August 27, 2012 in Room 224 of the PNC Center, 101 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. At such time, the direct evidence of the respective parties should be presented and their respective witnesses examined. Thereafter, Petitioner should present its prefiled rebuttal evidence as well as any additional evidence rebutting evidence adduced on cross-examination of the OUCC's or Intervenors' witnesses. If the parties reach settlement, the agreement and supporting testimony and exhibits shall be submitted to the Commission five (5) business days prior to the Evidentiary Hearing.

6. **Sworn Testimony.** Any witness testimony to be offered into the record of this proceeding shall be made under oath or affirmation. In accordance with 170 IAC 1-1.1-18(h), if the prefiled testimony of a witness is to be offered into evidence at the Evidentiary Hearing, and the witness sponsoring the prefiled testimony is not required to, and does not, attend the Evidentiary Hearing, the prefiled testimony shall be accompanied by the witness's sworn affidavit or written verification at the time the evidence is offered into the record.

7. **Discovery.** Discovery is available for all parties and shall be conducted on an informal basis. Any response or objection to a discovery request shall be made within ten (10) calendar days of the receipt of such request. The parties also agree to utilize electronic service.

8. **Prefiling of Workpapers.** When prefiling technical evidence with the Commission, each party shall file copies of the work papers used to produce that evidence within two (2) business days after the prefiling of the technical evidence. Copies of same shall also be provided to any other party requesting such in writing. When submitting workpapers to the Commission, two (2) copies of each document shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission.

9. **Number of Copies/Corrections.** With the exception of work papers, the parties shall file with the Commission an original and five (5) copies of all prefiled testimony and exhibits. Any corrections to prefiled testimony shall be made in writing as soon as possible after discovery of the need to make such corrections. Although the Commission's rules require that original copies be one-sided, it is the Commission's preference that duplicate copies use both sides of the paper.

Parties may also elect to file documents with the Commission using the Commission's Electronic Filing System in lieu of filing paper documents. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Electronic Filing System, documents filed electronically are deemed filed the date they are

submitted, subject to verification and acceptance by the Commission, and will receive an electronic file stamp. For filings greater than thirty (30) pages in length, a party shall file with the Commission an original and one (1) paper copy within two (2) business days of the electronic filing. When supplying such copies, the party must provide a copy of the email reflecting the electronic filing was accepted by the Commission.

**10. Objections to Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits.** Any objections to the admissibility of prefiled testimony or exhibits shall be filed with the Commission and served on all parties of record no less than two (2) business days prior to the date scheduled for commencement of the hearing at which the testimony or exhibit will be offered into the record.

**11. Intervenors.** Any party permitted to become an Intervenor in this Cause shall be bound by the record as it stands at the time its Petition to Intervene is granted, pursuant to 170 IAC 1-1.1-11.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION that:**

1. The determinations of the Prehearing Conference set forth in this Order are made a part of the record in this Cause and shall be binding on all present and future parties of record during the proceedings of this Cause.

2. This Order shall be effective on and after the date of its approval.

**ATTERHOLT, LANDIS, MAYS AND ZIEGNER CONCUR; BENNETT ABSENT:**

**APPROVED: APR 18 2012**

**I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Order as approved.**

  
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**Brenda A. Howe**  
**Secretary to the Commission**