STATE OF MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2022-00152

October 11, 2022

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY Request for Approval of Distribution Rate Increase and Rate Design Changes Pursuant to 35-A M.R.S. § 307 PROCEDURAL ORDER (Technical Conferences)

This procedural order addresses (1) the preliminary schedule for witness questioning during the upcoming technical conferences; (2) instructions for participation the upcoming technical conferences; and (3) outstanding discovery issues.

I. TECHNICAL CONFERENCE SHEDULE

Pursuant to a Procedural Order dated August 22, 2022, technical conferences are scheduled for the following days:

November 1, 2022, from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm; November 4, 2022, from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm; November 8, 2022, from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm; November 9, 2022, from 9:00 am until 5 pm; November 10, 2022 from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm (optional).

Based on the volume of testimony, data requests, and data request responses filed to date, Examiners are anticipating that questioning may go beyond the four days set forth in the original schedule. Therefore, the Examiners ask the parties also to set aside the entirety of **Thursday, November 10, 2022, 9:00 am through 5:00 pm** as an additional technical conference day.

Below is a table setting forth the proposed schedule for the technical conferences. The table is meant as a guide for parties so that intervenors can plan their questioning and so that witnesses can plan their availability. Parties must file their time estimates for questioning each of the various witness panels by **Wednesday, October 26, 2022**. Time estimates should specify each topic of questioning, the estimated time for each topic, and should identify any time estimates for *in camera* questioning by protective order (e.g. Protective Order No. 1 etc.) Intervenors who do not request time for questioning by October 26th, may be permitted to engage in limited follow-up questioning, but will only be allowed initial questioning to the extent that time permits. The Examiners may further refine the technical conference schedule to reflect the time estimates.

To the extent that Central Maine Power Company (CMP) may have any unavoidable witness conflicts with the below schedule, it should identify those conflicts in a filing by **October 21, 2022**.

November	1	4	8	9	10
	11:00-5:00	9:00-5:00	11:00-5:00	9:00-5:00	9:00-5:00
PP ¹			Х	Х	Х
CIP			Х	Х	Х
EOP			Х	Х	Х
VMP			Х	Х	Х
GM			Х	Х	X
RRP	Х	X	Х	Х	
CS	Х	X			
ROE	X	Х			
JJS (Dep)	Х	X			
Tax	Х	X			
DAR	Х	X			
WCS	Х	Х			
RD	Х	Х			

II. PARTICIPATION IN TECHNICAL CONFERENCES

The technical conferences will be held in person in the Simpson Hearing Room at the Commission's offices in Hallowell, Maine.² Due to the large number of participants, the Hearing Examiners may allow remote participation (via Teams video conference) upon request. Remote participation is allowed (without a request) when a party does not anticipate participating in questioning. Examiners will send the Microsoft Teams meeting link for each day of the technical conference to all active parties.

Pursuant to state government rules, persons appearing in state buildings are no longer required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status. However, because Covid (or other viral) transmissions could increase in the coming months and because the hearing room is a confined space, which may become relatively crowded, participants are welcome to wear a mask at any time.³ Masks will be available in the hearing room for persons who may forget to bring their own. Persons with questions or concerns about Covid protocol should contact the Examiners.

All parties, including those that may not be represented by attorneys, are expected to be familiar with and to follow the appropriate protocols as set forth in

¹ Abbreviations in this table are intended to match the abbreviations given in the page numbers of CMP testimony.

² Please note that the Commission's offices are located at 26 Katherine Drive, Hallowell, Maine.

³ Masking guidelines and requirements may continue to evolve.

Chapter 110 of the Commission's rules.⁴ Citizen intervenors or other parties unfamiliar with Chapter 110 may contact the Office of the Public Advocate at (207) 624-3687 for further information about technical conference procedures and expectations.

III. OUTSTANDING DISCOVERY DISPUTES

The September 7, 2022 Procedural Order directed parties to attempt to resolve discovery disputes that arose during the discovery period through direct negotiations, and to notify the Examiners if any discovery disputes were not resolved. To date the Examiners have not been notified of any outstanding discovery disputes. To the extent that disputes remain, those must be brought to the attention of the Hearing Examiners no later than **Tuesday, October 18, 2022**, so that any disputes may be resolved in advance of the technical conferences.

Dated at Hallowell, Maine, this 11th day of October 2022.

BY ORDER OF THE HEARING EXAMINERS

Non

Nora Healy

Daya J. Taylor Hearing Examiners

⁴ Chapter 110 is available at <u>https://www.maine.gov/mpuc/legislative/laws-rules</u>.