

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2007-215

June 5, 2007

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY  
Chapter 120 Information (Post ARP 2000  
Transmission and Distribution Utility Revenue  
Requirements and Rate Design, and Request for  
Alternative Rate Plan

PROCEDURAL ORDER

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At the initial case conference, CMP distributed a proposed schedule in this matter through the technical conference on Intervenor Testimony and Bench Analysis. By way of a Procedural Order dated May 16, 2007, the Examiner adopted CMP's proposed schedule on discovery of its initial filing and requested comments on the remainder of CMP's proposed schedule, including CMP's contemplated completion of the case, late-March 2008.

On May 23, 2007, the OPA filed comments in response to the Procedural Order. In its comments, the OPA noted that it would attempt to have its discovery completed by June 15 (21 days prior to the end of the July 6 close of discovery) but that it might need additional time on certain issues. In addition, the OPA requested additional time, until August 21, for the filing of Intervenor Testimony. Also the OPA requested that no settlement conferences be scheduled prior to the filing of the Intervenor Testimony and Bench Analysis. With regards to the completion date of the case, the OPA noted that since there was a possibility that rates will come down as a result of this case, ratepayers should receive the benefit of the reduction as soon as possible. The OPA went on to note, however, that this was an important and complicated case and that it was important to provide sufficient time to ensure a proper result. Therefore, the OPA concluded that it did not object to completing the case in March, 2008 as proposed by CMP on the condition that if there was a rate reduction, ratepayers be made whole for the reduction as of January 1, 2008.

CMP filed a response to the OPA's comments on May 24, 2007. In its response, CMP stated that it did not object to the OPA's request that the Intervenor be provided additional time to submit their testimony. CMP stated, however, that it respectfully disagreed with the OPA's position that holding settlement discussions prior to the filing of Intervenor Testimony and Bench Analysis was inappropriate. Finally, CMP reiterated that it was not seeking a rate increase through its filing but rather suggested that a rate change on July 1 as part of its ARP proposal.

Based on the input from the parties the following schedule is adopted:

### SCHEDULE

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Close of Discovery on CMP's initial Filing <sup>1</sup>	July 13, 2007
Technical Conference on Company's Filing	July 17-20, 2007
Responses to Oral Data Requests	August 2, 2007
Intervenor Testimony	August 21, 2007
Initial Bench Analysis	September 5, 2007
Settlement Conference	September 16, 2007
Discovery on Intervenor Testimony and Bench Analysis (two week response time)	September 6, 2007 through October 3, 2007
Technical Conference on Intervenor Testimony And Bench Analysis	October 10-12, 2007
Settlement Conference	October 16, 2007
Oral Data Responses	October 23, 2007
Rebuttal Filings	November 9, 2007
Data Requests on Rebuttal	November 21, 2007
Data Responses	December 5, 2007
Technical Conference on Rebuttal	December 13-14, 2007
Settlement Conference	December 18, 2007
Oral Data Responses	January 5, 2008
Surrebuttal	January 16, 2008
Data Requests	January 23, 2008

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<sup>1</sup> As noted in the Procedural Order of May 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be a 21-day rolling deadline for responses.

Data Responses	January 31, 2008
Case Management Conference	February 2, 2008
Case Management Memo	February 5, 2008
Pre-hearing Conference	February 9, 2008
Hearings	February 12-15, 2008
Briefs	March 7, 2008
Reply Briefs	March 18, 2008
Examiner's Report	April 8, 2008
Exceptions	April 18, 2008
Deliberations	Week of April 28, 2008

In setting this schedule, the Examiner has attempted to accommodate the scheduling requests of the OPA as well as CMP. Accommodating these requests, as well as providing adequate time for the remaining litigation steps to bring the case to completion, results in the case ending in April, 2008 rather than the end of March, 2008. The schedule includes three settlement conferences. The first conference has been scheduled after the filing of the initial Bench Analysis. While it may not be inappropriate to have a conference prior to such time, the Examiner believes that discussions will likely be more efficient and effective after such time. Additional conferences can be scheduled during the case as appropriate.

The OPA's request that CMP be required to provide credits back to January 1, 2008 should the Commission order a rate reduction is beyond the scope of the Examiner's scheduling authority. To the extent the OPA wishes to pursue this request, or in fact objects to the above-referenced schedule without this relief, the OPA should either file a petition requesting such relief from the Commission, or in the alternative, request reconsideration of the schedule set by the Examiner.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007.

BY ORDER OF THE HEARING EXAMINER

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Charles Cohen