

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS
89 JEFFERSON BOULEVARD
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02888**

IN RE: Joint Petition for Purchase and Sale of :
Assets By The Narragansett Electric : Docket No. D-06-13
Company and the Southern Union :
Company :

ORDER

Whereas: The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) had established a procedural schedule in this docket at a pre-hearing conference conducted on May 11, 2006. All parties of record were in attendance. The current procedural schedule, which was adopted by agreement of the parties, established a deadline of May 19, 2006 for propounding discovery.

Whereas: On May 18, 2006 the Department of Attorney General (“Attorney General”), a party in the docket, moved for a modification to the May 19, 2006 discovery deadline. Citing an inability to propound follow-up discovery under the current schedule, the Attorney General requests that the Division “extend the May 19, 2006 deadline to at least June 15.”

Whereas: The Division requested positions from the parties on the Attorney General’s motion on May 22, 2006. All the parties, with the exception of the Southern Union Company (“Southern Union”), one of the petitioners in this docket, indicated no objection to the Attorney General’s request for an extension to the May 19, 2006 deadline.

Southern Union submitted a written objection/memorandum on the issue on May 23, 2006. The Attorney General filed a written reply to Southern Union's objection on May 24, 2006. Southern Union briefly responded in writing on May 25, 2006.

Whereas: The Division has considered the motion filing and related arguments by the Attorney General, and also Southern Union's objection, and finds the Attorney General's request for an extension to June 15, 2006 to be reasonable under the unique circumstances surrounding this case. The Division notes that during the pre-hearing conference the hearing officer specifically questioned the parties with respect to the issue of the Petitioners' request for a final decision on or before July 25, 2006. None of the parties objected to the adoption of a procedural schedule that was predicated upon this goal. It was, however, agreed that the schedule could be modified if circumstances so warranted. The hearing officer made it clear that all parties would be given reasonably sufficient time to conduct relevant discovery and prepare their respective direct cases.

As the Division has not received any formal content-related discovery objections, the Division finds that it can grant the Attorney General's request for additional time to conduct discovery, and also preserve the balance of the procedural schedule. The Intervenors (including the Attorney General) and the Advocacy Section are


accordingly reminded that their pre-filed direct testimony is still due on or before June 19, 2006.

Now, therefore, it is

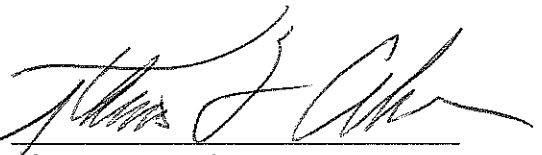
(18620) ORDERED:

That the Attorney General's motion for an extension of the deadline for propounding discovery from May 19 to June 15, 2006, is hereby granted.

Dated and Effective at Warwick, Rhode Island on May 26, 2006.



John Spirito, Jr., Esq.
Hearing Officer

APPROVED: 

Thomas F. Ahern
Administrator