

**SUMMARY OF RATEPAYER SAVINGS ATTRIBUTABLE TO  
PUBLIC ADVOCATE INTERVENTIONS**

**2018-2019**

**Commission Investigation into Large Volume Customer Underbilling by Maine Natural Gas Corporation**

On January 14, 2019, the Commission issued an order requiring MNG to refund gas rate overcharges to the customers who were adversely impacted by the underbilling.....\$721,975.97

**Maine Natural Gas Corporation Annual Cost of Gas Review for 9/1/18 -8/31/19**

On August 29, 2018, the Commission issued an order reducing the amount that MNG could recover in its cost of gas adjustment and initiating another case to examine how some of MNG’s costs should be treated in the future. ....\$627,000.00

**New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC)**

By Order dated July 1, 2019 the Commission approved a stipulation wherein Central Maine Power Agreed to provide the following benefits to Maine ratepayers:

Creation of a Low-Income Customer Benefit Fund .....\$50,000,000.00

Establishment of Rate Relief Fund to provide for rate relief for retail electric customers .....\$140,000,000.00

Rate Credit for RNS and LNS Transmission customers .....\$1,005,000.00

- The Low-Income Customer Benefit Fund will be paid in 40 annual payments of \$1.25 million
- The \$140 million Rate Relief Fund for CMP’s retail customers includes \$60 million, attributable to the transfer of NECEC project assets to NECEC LLC. Payment of the \$60 million in this fund will be in 40 installments of \$1.5 million annually.
- Payment of the remaining funds in the Rate Relief Fund will also be over 40 years for an annual payment of \$2 million.

**2017-2018**

**Northern Utilities, Inc. d/b/a Unitil, Request for Approval of Rate Changes Pursuant to Section 307**

Northern updated its revenue requirement again on January 8, 2018, proposing an increase of \$6,547,173, which included the Saco TAB. On January 26, 2018, Northern filed a final adjustment to its revenue requirement to reflect the impact of the 2017 federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA),

which, by reducing the federal income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent reduced Northern’s proposed revenue increase to \$3,481,567.....\$1,408,920.00

**CMP Annual Compliance case**

Ratepayers savings are attributable to methodology developed by OPA Consultant: \$3 million.  
Identification of accounting errors by OPA Consultant of any additional reduction: \$1 million.  
.....\$4,000,000.00

**Emera Rate Case**

This rate case was Emera Maine’s third request for an increase in distribution rates in the last five years seeking a \$10 million increase in distribution revenue requirement. After discovery, evidentiary hearings and briefs, the Commission agreed with Emera and removed the earnings penalty, but it only approved a \$4.5 million increase. It found, agreeing with us, that Emera could not retain any of the tax savings amounts but needed to return them to ratepayers. Overall, the Commission approved a \$5.574 million rate increase. ....\$5,540,000.00

**2016-2017**

**Request for Approval of a Proposed Rate Increase Pertaining to Emera Maine**

With the help of our experts, we challenged the Company’s proposed 10.25% return on equity, arguing instead that only 9.0% was warranted under the formula traditionally employed by the Commission. In its final order, the Commission chose 9.5% as the ROE, saving ratepayers over \$1.6 annually in rates. In addition, the Commission, in response to our advocacy, disallowed \$3.4 million of costs for a substation.....\$5,000,000.00

**Request for Approval of Annual Cost of Gas Filings Pertaining to Maine Natural Gas Corporation**

Maine Natural Gas Corporation (MNG) filed for its annual cost of gas reconciliation in June 2016. The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) was concerned that MNG was recovering for the cost of gas it had not yet purchased. ....\$235,577.000

**2015-2016**

**Central Maine Power, Annual Compliance Filing**

The application of the revenue decoupling mechanism advocated for by the OPA in CMP’s rate case resulted in a 3.24% (\$6,209,653) reduction in residential rates and a 6.45% (\$4,561.717) reduction in commercial /industrial rates.....\$10,771,370.00

**Maine Natural Gas, Request for Approval of Annual Cost of Gas Filings**

In this proceeding, the OPA successfully argued for changes in the method for calculating purchased gas costs that resulted in a reduction of MNG’s past cost adjustment from \$785,859 to \$343,885.  
.....\$441,974.00

**2014-2015**

**Investigation into Lease Agreement and Contract for Bulk Water Sales Between Fryeburg Water Company and Nestle Waters North America..... \$63,500.00**  
**Berwick Water Department, Request for Approval of Rate Change..... \$17,150.00**

**Ten Person Complaint (Pat Paradis et al) Against Iberdrola, S.A., Iberdrola USA, Central Maine Power and Maine Natural Gas, Inc. for Unreasonable Practices and Acts..... \$95,000.00**

**Central Maine Power, Request for Approval of a Rate Change – Section 307**

In a stranded cost proceeding CMP proposed to collect an “incentive payment” for its efforts in negotiating an Early Termination Agreement related to the termination of a purchase and sale agreement. We objected noting that there was no provision in the law which provided for recovery of such payments. The Commission agreed. .... \$140,000.00

**Maine Natural Gas, Request for Approval of Capacity Agreement ..... \$1,709,353**

**Maine Water Company, Request for Approval of an Accounting Order ..... \$369,903.00**

**2013-2014**

**Central Maine Power Rate Case**

CMP filed a major distribution case in which it sought 1) a \$41 million rate increase, 2) a new five-year alternative rate plan (ARP), 3) approval of \$55 million to design and install a major new billing system, and 4) a new rate design. We achieved savings of \$15 million relative to CMP’s request on issues where no other party or the Commission were active. On two other issues where the Staff did participate, depreciation and cost of capital – our efforts surely contributed to savings, but it is difficult to claim any particular amount. On depreciation, we sought a \$4.4 million reduction and settled for \$4.2 million. The Staff’s expert, who joined the case late, ended up agreeing with most of our expert’s direct testimony. On cost of capital, we sought an \$11 million reduction and the settlement was for a \$4.6 million reduction. .... \$15,000,000

**Central Maine Power Annual Compliance Filing**

In CMP’s final annual filing pursuant to its 2008 Alternative Rate Plan (this case was consolidated with the CMP rate case) we contributed to a \$417,243 savings related to the Company’s claimed costs for storm restoration costs. .... \$417,243.00

**Emera Maine Rate Case**

Emera Maine filed a request for a 9.4% increase in distribution rates applicable to its Bangor Hydro and Maine Public Districts. It subsequently revised its requests in an updated filing to request an 11.74% increase. In this case, Emera settled for \$3.42 million than the \$8.7 million it requested. Of this amount, the Public Advocate can claim sole responsibility for \$390,000..... \$390,000.00

## **Camden & Rockland Water Company**

On June 25, 2013, the Camden & Rockland of the Maine Water Company (MWC) filed a request that the Commission increase its annual revenues by \$447,338, or 7.81%. The Water Company's witness recommended a 10.15% ROE, based on a newly introduced "Predictive Risk Premium Model (PRPM)." The OPA's witness, relying on the traditional discounted-cash-flow (DCF) model and a capital-asset-pricing model (CAPM), recommended a ROE of 8.85% Commission recommended mid-range of 8.8%. Adjusting for flotation costs, the Commission found that the overall equity return for MWC should be 9.5%. .....\$107,398.00

## **Hallowell Water District**

On March 2014, the Hallowell Water District gave notice that was seeking a 20% increase in its water rates driven by the expansion of natural gas service into the District's service territory causing the district to hire an additional employee to response to requests to identify the locations of its underground water facilities in advance of excavation by the gas utility. On May 20, 2014 customers filed a petition to intervene. After several agreed to meetings between the Superintendent, other interested parties and Summit Natural Gas at the Public Advocate Office to explore ways that Summit could reimburse Hallowell Water District, an agreement was reached, and Summit proceeded ahead with its construction activities. ....\$735,00.00

## **Northern Utilities**

On April 1, 2013, Northern Utilities requested Commission approval for an annual increase of \$4,578,140 in its distribution revenues and approval for a multi-year alternative rate plan that would allow for future changes in the Company's distribution rates without the need to file a general rate case. Settlement negotiations that resulted in a stipulation. Under the terms of the settlement, Northern was permitted to increase its revenues by \$3,444,259, effective January 1, 2014. Changes in rate design allocated a higher percentage of Northern's revenue requirements to fixed monthly customer distribution charges and a lower percentage of revenue requirements to seasonal volumetric distribution charges and rate blocks. The stipulation continued and revised Northern's service quality plan, which consists of seven metrics and administrative penalties for failure to meet any of the metrics involving field operations, meter reading, contact center performance, and overall service complaints. ....\$1,406,428.00

## **2012-2013**

### **Central Maine Power CPCN Petition**

CMP filed for approval to replace a transmission line running from Roxbury to Rangeley, claiming that the existing line was in serious disrepair. The upgrade would replace a 34.5kV line with a 69kV line at a projected cost of \$40.5 million. We retained an expert consulting firm and through discovery determined that the existing line was not in need of an upgrade but did need maintenance and assorted new hardware items. Confronted with this information, CMP agreed to a dismissal of the CPCN petition .....\$40,500,000.00

**FairPoint Acquisition of Verizon**

FairPoint’s acquisition of Verizon resulted in a rate reduction worth \$90 million over a five-year period (FY 09 through FY 13) (5 yr. reduction – 5<sup>th</sup> year) .....\$18,000,000.00

**Bangor Hydro Electric and Maine Public Service Merger**

Bangor Hydro Electric and Maine Public Service filed a proposal for a corporate merger to bring the companies together as a single legal entity. The Public Advocate objected to the proposal that the companies “harmonize rates” which would have resulted in rate increases for customers of MPS .....\$164,000.00

**ISO-NE Administrative Budget Increase-FERC**

Our office joined with several other New England state agencies in protesting ISO-NE’s filing at FERC for a significant increase to its administrative budget. ISO- NE had proposed \$165 million for its 2013 administrative budget, a 10% annual increase, bringing the increase over the last four years to 35%. We requested that the ISO- New England budget process be subject to more scrutiny and review. The action was settled with a budget decrease of \$2.85 million as well as with an agreement to have more transparency and closer review of the budget process going forward. ....\$228,000.00

**Central Maine Power Reliability Program**

Under the terms of the multi-party Stipulation that settled CMP’s Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP) case, the Commission determined that the reliability needs in the Mid-Coast area of Maine would be met through the implementation of a non-transmission alternative (NTA) pilot project. The pilot must reliably reduce load in the Boothbay sub region of the Mid-Coast by 2 MW. It is estimated that this alternative to a transmission line will save Maine ratepayers \$3 million annually. ....\$3,000,000.00

**Maine Water Company**

Maine Water Company proposed rate increases in three of its ten divisions: Greenville (\$26,985, or 6.7%), Hartland (\$14,326 or 4.8%), and Kezar Falls (\$52,251, or 15.7%). The Public Advocate and Maine Water Company conducted a series of negotiations resulting in a stipulation in each of the three cases. By agreement, the revenues for Kezar Falls were increased by \$50,400 or 15.1%. For the Hartland division, it was agreed that revenues would increase by \$12,500 or 4.1%. For the Greenville, revenues were increased by \$25,200 or 6.2%. ....\$5,456,000.00

**2011-2012**

**CMP Credit and Collection**

Pursuant to an agreement with the OPA CMP agreed to pay a \$3 million-dollar penalty in this case to benefit ratepayers. In addition, the Company agreed to contribute \$1 million to fund an arrears

forgiveness program to reduce past balances for certain low-income customers on CMP's Electricity Lifeline Program ("ELP") as of September 30, 2010.....\$4,000,000.00

**BHE Standard Cost Case**

Office's efforts contributed to a reduction in stranded cost charges.....\$600,000.00

**FairPoint acquisition of Verizon**

Resulted in a rate reduction worth \$90 million over a five-year period (FY 09 through FY 13) 5-yr. reduction – 4th year).....\$18,000,000.00

**CMP – December 2008 Ice Storm Deferral**

In July, the Commission issued an Order resolving this case. CMP had requested reimbursement from customers for a little more than \$11 million for incremental costs it incurred in restoring service from damage caused in York and Cumberland counties by the December 2008 Ice Storm. The Commission agreed to allow CMP to recover \$7.71 million. We had argued in our brief that CMP was only entitled to \$5 million. Thus, through our efforts, CMP' revenue requirement will have \$3.3 million less than it would have, and rates will therefore be lower.....\$3,300,000.00

**Various water utility cases where the OPA was the only non-utility party .....\$398,808.00**

**Bangor Hydro Electric Company investigation of stranded cost revenue requirement**

Public Advocate Office was successful in arguing there is no basis to allow the generous ROE of 8.5% proposed by BHE.....\$600,000.00

**FairPoint acquisition of Verizon**

Our advocacy resulted in a rate reduction worth \$90 million over a five-year period (FY 09 through FY 13). (Five year reduction-Year 3) .....\$18,000,000.00

**Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline**

Maritimes updated its fuel charges based on higher expected through-put and compressor fuel use. With persuasive and effectual reasoningit would mean that delivering gas by Maritimes to markets in Maine will be lower for the 2011-2012 winter season.....\$500,000.00

**Granite State Transmission**

Granite State, an affiliate of Northern Utilities, proposed a \$3.22 capital adjustment rate but settled for a rate of \$3.10 which benefitted Maine consumers since half of affiliate costs are paid for by Maine ratepayers.....\$75,000.00

**Fairpoint**

Under the terms of the FairPoint regulatory settlement Maine ratepayers will continue to receive 100% of SQI rebates that were at risk in the bankruptcy proceeding ..... \$4,000,000.00

**Various water utility cases where the OPA was the only non-utility party ..... \$33,481.00**

**Northern Utilities**

Northern Utilities requested an increase in rates of \$9.33 million. The Public Advocate’s participation resulted in a savings to ratepayers of \$1.5 million and stipulated that Unutil would not file a base-rate case earlier than January 1, 2014 ..... \$1,500,000.00

**2010-2011**

**Various water utility cases where the OPA was the only non-utility party ..... \$343,622.00**

**Central Maine Power**

CMP’s Advanced Metering Infrastructure proposal: In 2007, CMP proposed a \$90 million Advanced Metering Infrastructure investment in the context of a rate case. We strongly opposed the AMI investment, and a June 2008 stipulation that settled the rate case set up a “Phase II” process for ongoing examination of the AMI issue. In early 2010, the Commission approved a revised CMP AMI investment proposal the cost of which was covered in large part by a US DOE smart grid grant. This grant is expected to allow CMP to make this investment with no cost to ratepayers because the benefits of AMI will cancel out those costs. Thus, our advocacy in forestalling approval of AMI in 2008 allowed for this grant to be won by CMP, saving ratepayers approximately \$90 million ..... \$90,000,000

Maritime ratepayer savings are attributed to elements: restoring two compressor fuel zones; and expand the first zone to include all of the Maritime delivery points in Maine which reduces the costs of delivering gas to Maine markets. The second element gained was the pipeline’s commitment to make up to \$250,000 per year available to subsidize the costs of constructing new gate stations for gas distribution companies seeking to supply gas to new markets off of the Maritime pipeline (this program will be in place for 5 years) ..... \$8,500,000.00

**FairPoint acquisition of Verizon**

Resulted in a rate reduction worth \$90 million over a five-year period (FY 09 through FY 13) (5 yr. reduction – 2<sup>nd</sup> year) ..... \$18,000,000.00

**2009**

During FY 09 customers of 10 Maine electric utilities received an increase of 13% in Low Income Assistance Program funding..... \$906,000.00

Due to a shift in the schedule by which Maine Yankee will collect the cost to repay a loan from the Spent Fuel Disposal Trust Fund.....\$4,125,000.00

As part of CMP's alternative rate plan, CMP's rates are adjusted each July 1 based on a price index formula. On March 13, 2009 CMP submitted its annual filing. Our Office participated in the review of CMP's request to increase its distribution delivery rates by 10.5% effective July 1, 2009. As a result of a negotiated settlement the Company agreed to an overall 5.9% increase in their distribution delivery rates.....\$1,900,000.00

**FairPoint Acquisition Verizon**

FairPoint acquisition of Verizon resulted in a rate reduction worth \$90 million over a five-year period (FY 09 through FY 13) (5 yr. reduction – 1<sup>st</sup> year).....\$18,000,000.00

**New Unutil Low Income Program** .....\$111,717.00

Various water utility cases where the OPA was the only non-utility party .....\$21,178.00