

## MEMORANDUM

To: Parties in PSB Docket No. 7770 (GMP/CVPS Merger)

From: Susan M. Hudson, Clerk of the Board

Re: Request for Status Conference on Witness Schedule; Board Questions and Requests

Date: March 13, 2012

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On March 12, counsel for the Petitioners filed a request with the Public Service Board ("Board") that it hold a status conference to address potential scheduling issues related to the technical hearings that will begin on March 21. Counsel noted that it may be challenging for the parties to develop a schedule that is consistent with witness availabilities.

In the Clerk's memorandum of March 8, the parties were asked to submit by March 15 a proposed order of witnesses and to advise the Board as to witness availability issues and desired cross-examination times. It will be difficult for the Board (and the other parties) to assess the need for a status conference on scheduling issues until there is an opportunity to review the submissions of the parties and it is clear that the collaborative efforts of the parties to develop a schedule have failed. Accordingly, any party that wishes to respond to the Petitioners' request for a status conference on witness scheduling must do so by noon on Friday, March 16, 2012. If a status conference is necessary, the Board anticipates that it could be held with Board staff on March 19 or 20.

Based on a review of the prefiled testimony (including the non-petitioners' surrebuttal testimony filed on March 8), there are a number of matters relevant to the Board's determinations (several of which were identified in the Clerk's memorandum of September 22, 2011, or at the workshop held on October 14, 2011) that do not appear to have been adequately addressed in the prefiled testimony. In order to make more efficient use of time at the hearings, the Board expects to circulate in advance of the hearings a list of questions and information requests concerning these matters. The Board will ask that the parties respond to these questions and requests in some form during the course of the technical hearings.