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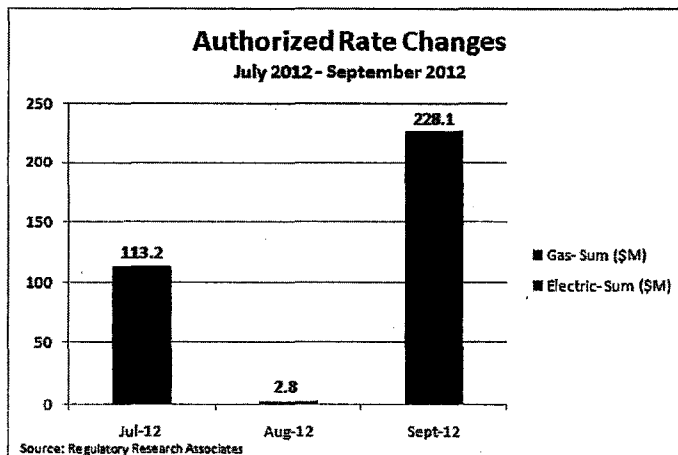
## Utility rate case activity rebounds in September

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By Taylor Allred

There was a significant amount of rate case activity during the month of September 2012, as noted by SNL Energy affiliate Regulatory Research Associates (RRA) in an Oct. 3 report entitled "RRA's Monthly Retrospective-- September 2012." At the time of publication, RRA was aware of seven (six electric, one gas) major rate case decisions that had been issued in the U.S. during September. In these proceedings, the state commissions approved rate changes aggregating to a net increase of about \$228 million. RRA notes that three of these decisions did not establish newly authorized returns on equity (ROEs). In the four cases in which new equity returns were authorized, the state commissions adopted ROEs that ranged from 9.5% to 10.05%. By comparison, in previous issues of this monthly report, RRA had noted that there was just one rate case decided in August (gas) and six (four electric and two gas) rate cases decided in July.



In addition, there were three (two electric and one gas) new rate cases filed during September, including a Notice of Intent that did not indicate the rate increase nor the ROE to be requested. In the other two rate cases filed during September, the companies seek rate increases aggregating to about \$164 million, each premised upon a 10.5% ROE.

For access to RRA's database containing 30+ years of rate case decision data and continuously updated information concerning pending cases, try RRA's refreshable Rate Cases-- Pending and Past template. For an analysis of trends in rate activity since 1980, try RRA's Rate Case Statistics and Graphs template.

There was a moderate amount of non-rate-case regulatory activity during September. Specifically, there were developments related to merger-approval proceedings in Arkansas and Louisiana, and also before the New Orleans City Council and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In Arkansas and Texas, there were developments regarding one utility's proposal to cede functional control of its transmission operations to a regional transmission organization, and in California, there were updates in an investigation into one utility's ability to pay fines stemming from a pipeline explosion. Also, in Florida, the commission deferred consideration of the recovery of costs associated with one utility's nuclear uprate program, and in Pennsylvania, there were updates in an investigation into the state's competitive retail power market.

There was no new major energy-related legislation enacted during September. In Florida, a commissioner was reappointed to serve a new term.



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### Sources

- Industry Document: RRA Rate Case Statistics and Graphs 9/10/2012
- Industry Document: Rate Cases - Pending and Past 9/5/2012

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Data feature produced by SNL's research groups in cooperation with the news department, leverages SNL's unrivaled data resources to highlight emerging trends and topics of interest.

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## Major Rate Case Decisions

July 2012 - September 2012

Company Name	State	Completion Date	Docket Number	Service Type	Authorized Rate Change	Authorized ROE (%)
					Amount (\$000)	
Peoples Natural Gas	PA	9/27/2012	D-R-2012-2285985	Natural Gas	15,400	NA
Potomac Electric Power Co.	DC	9/28/2012	FC-1087	Electric	24,000	9.50
South Carolina Electric & Gas	SC	9/26/2012	D-2012-186-E	Electric	52,149	NA
Idaho Power	OR	9/20/2012	D-UE-248	Electric	2,980	NA
PacifiCorp	UT	9/19/2012	D-11-035-200	Electric	154,000	9.80
Ameren Illinois	IL	9/19/2012	D-12-0001	Electric	-48,088	10.05
Entergy Texas	TX	9/13/2012	D-38898	Electric	27,673	9.80
Atmos Energy	KS	8/22/2012	D-12-ATMG-564-RTS	Natural Gas	2,800	NA
Delmarva Power & Light	MD	7/20/2012	C-9285	Electric	11,251	9.81
Potomac Electric Power Co.	MD	7/20/2012	C-9286	Electric	18,099	9.31
ONEOK	OK	7/19/2012	Ca-PUD201200029	Natural Gas	9,500	NA
PacifiCorp	WY	7/18/2012	D-20000-405-ER-11	Electric	50,000	9.80
Oklahoma Gas and Electric	OK	7/9/2012	Ca-PUD201100087	Electric	4,314	10.20
Washington Gas Light	VA	7/2/2012	C-PUE-2010-00139	Natural Gas	20,000	9.75

As of Oct. 3, 2012

Source: Regulatory Research Associates

Please note that any use of the word "we" in this article refers to the opinion of RRA, and not necessarily that of its affiliate SNL Energy. The author of this article can be reached at 201-433-5507.

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