# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE <br> Before the <br> PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 

DG 09-

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SECURITIES

DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
DAVID L. CHONG

NOVEMBER 20, 2009

NHPUC Docket No. DG 09- $\qquad$

## Q. Please state your full name and business address.

A. My name is David L. Chong. My business address is 6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton, New Hampshire, 03842.
Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
A. I am the Director of Finance for Unitil Service Corp. ("Unitil Service"), which provides various professional and administrative services to Northern Utilities, Inc. ("Northern" or the "Company"), as well as to Unitil Corporation's ("Unitil") other utility subsidiaries. As Director of Finance, I am responsible for the management of treasury operations and banking relationships; planning and execution of financing programs; development, preparation and presentation of financial forecasts and plans; overseeing insurance programs; interfacing with the financial community and investors; and supporting the company's regulatory and ratemaking objectives.

## Q. Please summarize your professional and educational background.

A. I have worked in the energy industry for over 8 years, principally in the areas of engineering and finance. From 2001 through 2005, I worked for Exxon Mobil Corporation as a project engineer. From 2005 through 2008, I worked for RBC Capital Markets Corporation in the energy investment banking group, where I provided financial advisory services including corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions analyses. While at RBC, I raised both equity and debt capital on numerous occasions for various energy companies. From 2008 through 2009, I worked for El Paso Exploration \&

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Testimony of David L. Chong
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Page 2 of 12 Production Company in its business development group. I began working for Unitil Service in August 2009 as the Director of Finance. I hold a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Tulane University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering with Honors from the University of Texas at Austin.

## Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to explain and support Northern's petition requesting authorization to issue to institutional investor(s) senior notes evidencing unsecured longterm debt in an aggregate amount of up to \$20,000,000 (hereinafter referred to as the "Bonds").

## Q. What is the Company specifically requesting at this time?

A. Northern is seeking the Commission's approval to issue an aggregate principal amount of up to $\$ 20,000,000$ of Bonds. The Bonds will be sold at par and will have a target maturity of 10 years and bear a fixed coupon of not more than $7.8 \%$.

## Q. When did the Company complete its last long-term debt financing?

A. Northern completed its last long-term debt financing in December 2008 in conjunction with Unitil’s acquisition of the Company. In December 2008, Northern issued two series of debt to help match the maturity of the permanent financing to the life of the utility assets. The tranches included $\$ 30,000,000$ of $6.95 \%$ Senior Notes, Series A, due December 2018 and \$50,000,000 of 7.72\% Senior Notes, Series B, due December 2038.
$\qquad$
Q. Please describe the key terms of the proposed long-term debt financing.
A. Northern is seeking to issue, at par, to institutional investors unsecured notes in an aggregate amount of up to $\$ 20,000,000$. The Bonds are expected to be issued under similar terms and provisions of the Note Purchase Agreement for the existing Senior Notes placed in December 2008. The Bonds will be marketed with a 10-year maturity / 9-year average life. The Bonds will have sinking fund and redemption provisions that are designed to allow Northern to pay off the Bonds in equal increments over the final three years. However, the ultimate maturity / average life, sinking fund provisions, coupon and other terms will depend on market conditions and investor interest at the time of pricing.
Q. What do you expect Northern's indicative credit rating to be for the offering?
A. Unitil and its subsidiaries do not have a public rating. Unitil's placement agents, Banc of America Securities LLC and RBC Capital Markets Corporation (collectively, the "Placement Agents"), indicate that based on recent issuances and a review of Northern's credit statistics, they believe the implied rating of Northern would be Baa2/BBB. Northern's current outstanding long-term debt has a private rating of NAIC-2 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). The NAIC-2 rating is the equivalent of the BBB rating by Standard and Poor's rating agency, reflecting the NAIC's view of Northern as an investment grade credit.

## Q. What are the current indicative coupon rates for this long-term debt offering?

A. The indicative coupon rates for this long-term debt offering are shown in the indicative term sheet in Schedule DLC-1. The indicative coupon rates are shown at the bottom of
$\qquad$
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the schedule for a variety of maturities ranging from 10 to 20 years. As shown, the coupon rates are derived by applying a projected credit spread to the appropriate US Treasury benchmark rate (as of November 17, 2009). The coupon rate for the 10-year maturity / 9-year average life is currently estimated at 4.94-5.69\%. The 15 -year and 20year maturity are currently estimated at 5.49-6.24\% and 5.91-6.66\%, respectively. Northern plans to target the 10-year maturity / 9-year average life. Northern believes that this structure is advantageous because of the lower cost of debt. This structure results in a lower coupon rate of approximately $1 \%$ compared to the 20-year maturity, primarily because of differences in the treasury benchmark rate at the different maturities. However, the ultimate maturity depends on market conditions and investor appetite at the time of pricing for a 10-year security; therefore it is possible that Northern may have to price outside of a 10-year maturity to attract sufficient investor interest.

## Q. Why is Northern proposing a $7.8 \%$ maximum coupon rate in its petition?

A. Market conditions can rapidly change, and Northern does not anticipate pricing until early December 2009. Therefore, Northern used the maximum yield for the 10-year treasury in the last five years (from 11/16/2004 to $11 / 16 / 2009$ ) as a proxy in anticipation of potential changes in the treasury market. The maximum yield for the 10-year treasury was $5.3 \%$ during this five-year period according to our Placement Agents. We then added a credit spread of 250 bps (corresponds to the spread ranges given under a 10-year maturity in the indicative term sheet in Schedule DLC-1) to obtain a total coupon rate of 7.8\%.
$\qquad$
Q. How does the current US treasury yield benchmark compare to yields in prior market periods?
B. From a longer term perspective, treasury yields are near historically low levels, although they have risen recently compared to the low levels earlier this year, as shown in Schedule DLC-2. In the last 20 years, the 10-year treasury yield has been higher than today's yield $97 \%$ of the time. However, credit spreads have widened significantly reflecting the global repricing of credit risk, offsetting the recent fall in the benchmark. Nevertheless, the resulting long-term coupon rates remain at comparatively low levels from a historical perspective and provide Northern with an opportunity to lock-in these favorable yields for the long-term.

## Q. Please explain how the pricing benchmarks shown on schedule DLC-1 were determined?

A. The pricing benchmarks for private placements are typically the most liquid or actively traded U.S. Treasury issues that have a maturity closest to the average life of the notes being issued. The 10 -year treasury meets this liquidity criterion. For the 15 -year and 20 year benchmarks, there is no liquid or actively traded bond that will mature in that time. Therefore, the pricing benchmarks for these maturities are interpolated. When investors make their pricing bids, they will often determine their desired all-in coupons and back into the spreads based upon the specific pricing benchmarks selected.
Q. How were the current spreads over the treasury benchmarks determined?

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Sources of Funds
Proposed Sale of Senior Unsecured Notes
Equity Contribution from Unitil Corporation
Total Sources of Funds

## Uses of Funds

Repay Short-Term Debt \$24,630
Fees and Expenses
Total Uses of Funds
\$20,000 5,000
$\$ 25,000$

370
$\$ 25,000$
A. Unitil's views on the expected credit spreads over the benchmarks are based upon our most recent discussions and feedback from our Placement Agents. Our Placement Agents have provided us with a synopsis of comparable utility transactions as shown in Schedule DLC-3. In this schedule, the Placement Agents analyzed the Baa2/BBB spreads for both 2009 utility private placement new issuances and secondary market transactions to determine indicative credit spreads as shown in Schedule DLC-1.
Q. How does Northern intend to use the net proceeds of the issuance of the Bonds?
A. The Company intends to utilize the proceeds of the Bond financing as follows: (1) to repay outstanding short-term indebtedness incurred for additions, extensions and betterments to the Company's property, plant and equipment; and (2) to defray the costs and expense of the financing or for other lawful corporate purposes.

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.
SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS
Proposed Sale of $\mathbf{\$ 2 0 , 0 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ Senior Unsecured Notes (\$ In Thousands)
$\qquad$
Q. How will the long-term debt financings affect the capital structure, including shortterm debt of the Company?
A. In addition to the Bond financing, Unitil is planning to provide a $\$ 5,000,000$ equity contribution. As shown below, the long-term debt to capitalization ratio (excluding short-term debt) for Northern will increase slightly by this financing, which is partially mitigated by the equity contribution of $\$ 5,000,000$ from Unitil. The total debt to capitalization ratio (including short-term debt of the Company) will be strengthened since the use of proceeds from both the proposed long-term Bond offering and the equity contribution are to repay short-term debt. Furthermore, it is important to note that the pro forma capitalization ratios below are as of September 30, 2009. Gas local distribution companies generally have their strongest financial performance in the winter months. Therefore, Northern expects that its pro forma equity ratios will increase on an estimated December 31, 2009 basis.

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.
CAPITAL STRUCTURE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 Proformed for the Issuance and Sale of $\mathbf{\$ 2 0 , 0 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ Senior Unsecured Notes (\$ In Millions)

Excluding Short-Term Debt

|  | Actual |  | Adjustments <br> Amount | Pro Forma |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Amount | \% of Total |  | Amount | \% of Total |
| Senior Unsecured Notes | \$80.0 | 54.2\% | \$20.0 | \$100.0 | 58.0\% |
| Common Equity | 67.5 | 45.8\% | 5.0 | 72.5 | 42.0\% |
| Total | \$147.5 | 100.0\% | \$25.0 | \$172.5 | 100.0\% |

## Including Short-Term Debt

|  | Actual |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Amount |  |  |
|  | \% of Total |  |  |
| Senior Unsecured Notes | $\$ 80.0$ | $44.3 \%$ |  |
| Short-Term Debt | 33.2 | $18.4 \%$ |  |
| Common Equity | 67.5 | $37.4 \%$ |  |
| Total | $\$ 180.7$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |  |


| Adjustments | Pro Forma |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Amount | Amount | \% of Total |
| \$20.0 | \$100.0 | 55.2\% |
| (\$24.6) | 8.6 | 4.7\% |
| 5.0 | 72.5 | 40.0\% |
| \$0.4 | \$181.1 | 100.0\% |

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## Q. What are the projected issuance costs for the proposed offering?

A. Under the terms of our engagement letter with the Placement Agents, Northern will pay a placement fee of $\$ 160,000$, which is equal to $0.80 \%$ of the principal amount of the Notes at the time of closing of the Notes. Additionally, the Company will be responsible for legal expenses, including all fees and expenses of both Northern's and lender's counsel incurred in commencing the offering and sale of the Notes. Northern has received an estimate of $\$ 150,000$ from Dewey \& LeBoeuf (Northern’s outside counsel). Northern is utilizing outside counsel to provide corporate financing services because of the specialized legal expertise required for corporate financings. It is not economical to hire in-house legal staff to perform highly specialized legal work of this nature, particularly given that the legal skills and acumen for corporate financings are required on a relatively infrequent basis. Northern also estimated \$50,000 for lender's counsel. Lastly, Northern estimated $\$ 10,000$ for miscellaneous expenses including potential out-of-pockets expenses for the Placement Agents under the terms of our engagement letter. The current estimate is that the total fees and expenses associated with the issuance of the Bonds will be about \$370,000.

## Q. What types of investors participate in the private placement process?

A. Typically, the investors for this type of transaction will be insurance companies that have a demand for longer term maturity securities and have a strong familiarity with the utility sector. The Placement Agents have recommended a strategy to market the Bonds to Northern's current investors (four) and to a few other external private placement

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Testimony of David L. Chong Exhibit NU-1 Page 9 of 12 investors that are active participants in the utility sector and that have demand for longterm securities. The Placement Agents have a strong market presence within the utility sector and have recommended this marketing strategy as the most appropriate for three reasons. First, this strategy recognizes the importance of Northern's existing relationship with current investors and gives them an opportunity to participate in a new issuance. Second, the Placement Agents are actively marketing deals within the utility sector and therefore know which external investors are the most likely to show strong interest and make competitive offers. Third, the Placement Agents have indicated that a $\$ 20,000,000$ issuance is relatively small and therefore a competitive market can be established with the above strategy. The Placement Agents expect that 2-3 of the investors to whom the offering has been marketed will make competitive offers. The Placement Agents also anticipate that several investors will opt to not make a bid once they realize they may not be competitive on the price guidance provided by the Placement Agents during the marketing period.

## Q. Have you obtained an assessment of the current state of the Private Placement

 Market?A. Yes. A normal part of Unitil's due diligence and preparatory work before going to the market for a private placement is to have several strategic discussions with the Placement Agents and other advisors on overall market conditions. As shown in Schedule DLC-4, our Placement Agents have indicated that current investor demand exceeds available supply and investors are submitting increasingly aggressive bids. Over $\$ 23$ billion of transactions have been completed year-to-date in 2009 with approximately $\$ 7$ billion of

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Page 10 of 12 transactions completed in the third quarter of 2009. The private placement market has not been constrained by the same liquidity issues as in other sectors of the global financial markets. In the bond market and especially in the private placement market, the Placement Agents expect that investor liquidity will increase due to ongoing receipt of interest payments, bond redemptions and scheduled maturities.

## Q. Does Northern expect the Private Placement Market to be receptive to this offering?

A. Yes. Unitil believes that the private placement market will be receptive to this offering, similar to the previous deal completed by Northern in December 2008, where the Company was viewed favorably by the private placement market. According to the Placement Agents, investors have been attracted by Unitil's stable growth and performance in its sector, regulatory climate and strong management team, and will welcome the opportunity to invest further in Unitil and its subsidiaries. From a broader perspective, the fact that the utility sector has been viewed favorably by investors is evidenced by the high levels of new issuance in the past few years and year-to-date. As shown in Schedule DLC-4, page 2, utility issuances have represented $17 \%$ of the total new issuances year-to-date 2009. Additionally, the Placement Agents have informed us that there has been significant demand for longer-dated securities in the private placement market, as investors are looking for debt to match their longer dated liabilities.

## Q. What is the timetable for the proposed financing?

A. Schedule DLC-5 is a timetable for each of the major activities associated with the proposed debt offering. While this timetable is currently Northern's and the Placement

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Agents' best estimate of timing, it is possible that due to unforeseen market or other conditions, the timing of this offering may be adjusted.

Northern is requesting an order nisi from the Commission approving the transaction on or before December 18, 2009. This will provide for the necessary expiration of the appeal period prior to the final Closing. The final Closing on the Bonds is currently targeted for late January 2010. In its financing petition on this matter, the Company is requesting the Commission's authorization for the proposed financing without hearing. In previous financings undertaken by Unitil's other subsidiaries, the Commission has recognized the tight time frames under which market transactions of this nature must necessarily take place and has therefore provided for an expeditious discovery process without hearing and issued its approvals by Order Nisi. The Company is again seeking this approval process with respect to this Bond financing.

## Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes, it does.

# INDEX OF SCHEDULES: 

Schedule DLC-1
Schedule DLC-2
Schedule DLC-3
Schedule DLC-4
Schedule DLC-5

## Private Placement Market <br> Indicative Term Sheet

## Unitil Corporation

| Issuer: | Northern Utilities |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Issuance: | Senior Unsecured Notes |  |  |  |
| Size: | \$20,000,000 |  |  |  |
| Use of Proceeds: | For debt refinancing, capital expenditures and general corporate purposes |  |  |  |
| Maturities: | Multiple maturities available (for illustrative purposes 9, 10, 15 and 20-year bullets/average life structures are shown below) |  |  |  |
| Documentation: | Similar to past private placements |  |  |  |
| Call Option: | Economic make-whole at $\mathrm{T}+50 \mathrm{bps}$ |  |  |  |
| PRICING: |  |  |  |  |
|  | 10-Year / 9-Year Avg Life | 10-Year | 15-Year | 20-Year |
| Reference Treasury | Interpolated | 3.375\% due 11/19 | 3.375\% due 11/19 | 4.375\% due 11/39 |
| Reference Treasury Yield ${ }^{(1)}$ | 3.19\% | 3.34\% | 3.34\% | 4.26\% |
| Credit Spread | 175-250 bps | 175-250 bps | 215-290 bps | 165-240 bps |
| Coupon | 4.94\% - 5.69\% | 5.09\% - 5.84\% | 5.49\% - 6.24\% | 5.91\% - 6.66\% |

## Private Placement Market

Treasury Market

Estimated 2009 Treasury Issuance 2.4x 2008


Yield Curve Steepens to Record High


In the Last 20 Years the 10-year Treasury Yield Has Been Higher than Today 97\% of the Time 12.00\% 11.00\% 10.00\%


We deliver.
It's that simple.

## Private Placement Market

 2009 Utility Private Placements| Date | Issuer | Ratings | Principal (\$MM) | Pricing | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 11/13 | Water Utility - HoldCo | NAIC-1 | 50 | T + 130 | 10Y |
| 11/2 | Water Utility - OpCo | NAIC-2 | 30 | T + 125 | 10Y |
| 10/30 | South Texas Electric Cooperative | A- / A- / NAIC-1 | 320 | T + 200 | 18Y/10 AL |
|  |  |  |  | T15 + 235 | 30Y / 15 AL |
| 10/15 | Powercor Australia, LLC | A3 / A- / NAIC-1 | 275 | T + 195 | 5 Y |
|  |  |  |  | T+190 | 7 Y |
| 10/3 | Northwestern Corp. | A3 / A- / NAIC-1 | 55 | T + 155 | 30Y |
| 9/30 | Basin Electric Power Cooperative | A1 / A+ / NAIC-1 | 535 | T + 149 | 7Y / 6Y AL |
|  |  |  |  | T10 + 165 | 18Y / 14Y AL |
|  |  |  |  | T + 160 | 30.5Y / 29.5Y AL |
| 9/29 | People Gas | NAIC-1 | 75 | T + 120 | 10 Y |
| 9/23 | Portland General Electric | A3 / A / NAIC-1 | 150 | T + 125 | $30 Y$ |
| 9/23 | Brazos Sandy Creek Electric Cooperative | NAIC-1 | 540 | T+310 | 14.7Y / 12.6Y AL |
| 8/25 | PJM Interconnection | Aa3 / NAIC-1 | 75 | 3.60\% | $7 \mathrm{Y} / 4 \mathrm{Y}$ AL |
| 8/14 | Great River Energy | A3 / BBB+ / A- / NAIC-1 | 400 | T10 + 215 | 12Y / 8.37Y AL |
|  |  |  |  | T10 + 240 | 17Y / 14.5Y AL |
|  |  |  |  | T30 + 245 | 22 Y |
| 8/10 | Vermont Electric Power | A / NAIC-1 | 135 | T + 100 | 20Y / 10Y AL |
| 7/21 | Nicor Gas | A1 / AA / NAIC-1 | 50 | T + 120 | 10 Y |
| $7 / 15$ | ETSA Utilities | A3 / A- / NAIC-1 | 500 | T + 275 | $5 \mathrm{Y}-10 \mathrm{Y}$ |
| 6/23 | Penn Power | Baa1 / A- / NAIC-2 | 100 | T10 + 245 | $13 Y$ |
| 6/16 | Georgia Transmission Corporation | A3 / AA - / NAIC-1 | 150 | T10 + 185 | $21 \mathrm{Y} / 14 \mathrm{Y}$ AL |
| 6/5 | New Jersey American Water Company | NAIC-1 | 100 | 5.48\% | 10Y |
|  |  |  |  | 6.35\% | 30Y |
| 5/28 | Integrys Energy | A3 / BBB / NAIC-2 | 155 | T + 475 | $5 \mathrm{Y}-7 \mathrm{Y}$ |
| 5/23 | American Water Works Co. Inc. | NAIC-2 | 50 | 7.21\% | 10 Y |
|  |  |  |  | 8.27\% | 30Y |
| 5/22 | Caribbean Utilities Company | A / NAIC-1 | 40 | T + 410 | 15Y / 12Y AL |
| 3/20 | Tri-State Generation \& Transmission Association, Inc. | Baa1 / A / A / NAIC-1 | 300 | $\begin{aligned} & T+385 \\ & T+370 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 10 \mathrm{Y} / 7 \mathrm{Y} \mathrm{AL} \\ & 12 \mathrm{Y} / 10 \mathrm{Y} \mathrm{AL} \end{aligned}$ |

## Private Placement Market

## Secondary Public Market Comparables

## Operating Company - Unsecured Deals

| Opco-Unsecured |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Security Description |  |  | $\frac{\text { Bid Spread }}{17-\text { Nov }}$ | Yield |
|  | Ticker | Issue Description | Ratings | Coupon | Maturity | Size |  |  |
| 10-Year Issues | ED | Consolidated Edison Co. | A3/A- | 6.650\% | Apr-19 | \$475 | 113 | 4.47\% |
|  | D | Virginia Electric Power Co. | Baa1/A- | 5.000\% | Jun-19 | \$350 | 100 | 4.34\% |
|  | FE | Pennsylvania Electric Co. | Baa2/BBB | 5.200\% | Apr-20 | \$250 | 160 | 4.94\% |
|  | AEP | Indiana Michigan Power | Baa2/BBB | 7.000\% | Mar-19 | \$475 | 175 | 5.09\% |
|  | FE | Jersey Central Power \& Light | Baa2/BBB | 7.350\% | Feb-19 | \$300 | 165 | 4.99\% |
|  | FE | Metropolitan Edison | Baa2/BBB | 7.700\% | Jan-19 | \$300 | 178 | 5.12\% |
|  | PNW | Arizona Public Service | Baa2/BBB- | 8.750\% | Mar-19 | \$500 | 255 | 5.89\% |
| 30-Year Issues | SO | Alabama Power | A2/A | 6.000\% | Mar-39 | \$500 | 107 | 5.33\% |
|  | DUK | Duke Energy Carolinas | A3/A- | 6.100\% | Jun-37 | \$500 | 115 | 5.41\% |
|  | ED | Consolidated Edison Co. | A3/A- | 6.750\% | Apr-38 | \$600 | 110 | 5.36\% |
|  | PCG | Pacific Gas \& Electric | A3/BBB+ | 5.400\% | Jan-40 | \$550 | 115 | 5.41\% |
|  | D | Virginia Electric Power Co. | Baa1/A- | 6.350\% | Nov-37 | \$450 | 112 | 5.38\% |
|  | CEG | Baltimore Gas \& Electric | Baa2/BBB+ | 6.350\% | Oct-36 | \$400 | 165 | 5.91\% |
|  | FE | Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. | Baa2/BBB+ | 5.950\% | Dec-36 | \$300 | 195 | 6.21\% |
|  | FE | Pennsylvania Electric Co. | Baa2/BBB | 6.150\% | Oct-38 | \$250 | 187 | 6.13\% |
|  | FE | Jersey Central Power \& Light | Baa2/BBB | 6.150\% | Jun-37 | \$275 | 148 | 5.74\% |
|  | AEP | Appalachian Power | Baa2/BBB | 7.000\% | Apr-38 | \$500 | 170 | 5.96\% |

- YTD 2009 issuance has totaled $\$ 23.1 \mathrm{bn}$ (a YoY decline of $15 \%$ )
- However, the recent improvement in market tone has caused issuance levels to increase
- Volume has grown during each of the last three quarters
- September and October each generated over $\$ 3.0 \mathrm{bn}$ of issuance
- The deal backlog indicates that 13 deals (\$2.1bn) are in the market or coming soon
- Currently, investor demand exceeds available supply and investors are submitting increasingly aggressive bids with each successive offering
- However, investors are still focused on strong investment grade profile credits
- While total dollar issuance is down, average deal sizes have stayed level


## Private Placement Market <br> General Trends

Annual Volume (Last 6 Years)


Average Deal Sizes


Quarterly Volume (since 2007)


Issuance by Credit Quality



- Nearly all of the YTD 2009 activity has been related with NAIC-1 and strong to solid NAIC-2 credit profiles
- Capacity for NAIC-3 deals, or NAIC-2 issuers with borderline credit profiles, remains constrained

It's that simple.

## Private Placement Market <br> General Trends

## Issuance by Sector YTD 2009

- Investors generally have focused on solid investment grade credits in stable, familiar industries during 2009
- As a result of investors' clear focus on defensive sectors, energy and power transactions have accounted for approximately $45 \%$ of the YTD volume
- Roughly 2/3 of the transactions are completed on a senior unsecured basis where the notes are pari-passu with issuer's bank debt


Source: Thomson Reuters - 2007-2008 Totals Bank of America Merrill Lynch - YTD Totals

## Process Timetable and Responsibilities



NU - Northern Utilities
CC - Company Counsel

BAML - Bank of America Merrill Lynch
I - Investors

## Bank of America Merrill Lynch

# NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC. <br> SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS <br> Proposed Sale of $\mathbf{\$ 2 0 , 0 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ Senior Unsecured Notes <br> (\$ In Thousands) 

Sources of Funds
Proposed Sale of Senior Unsecured Notes ..... \$20,000
Equity Contribution from Unitil Corporation ..... 5,000
Total Sources of Funds

$$
\$ 25,000
$$

Uses of Funds
Repay Short-Term Debt\$24,630
Fees and Expenses ..... 370
Total Uses of Funds\$25,000

# NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC. <br> ESTIMATED COST OF FINANCING Proposed Sale of $\mathbf{\$ 2 0 , 0 0 0}, 000$ Senior Unsecured Notes (\$ in Thousands) 

## Estimated Cost of Financing

Private Placement Fees to Placement Agents \$160
Legal Fees 200
Miscellaneous 10

Total Estimated Costs

DG 09-
Exhibit NU-4

## NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

UNAUDITED BALANCE SHEET AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009
Proformed for the Issuance and Sale of $\mathbf{\$ 2 0 , 0 0 0}, \mathbf{0 0 0}$ Senior Unsecured Notes
(\$ in Millions)

ASSETS:

|  | ACTUAL |  | ADJUSTMENTS | PRO FORMA |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Utility Plant: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gas | \$ | 216.5 |  | \$ | 216.5 |
| Common |  | - |  |  | - |
| Construction Work in Progress |  | 9.7 |  |  | 9.7 |
| Utility Plant |  | 226.2 |  |  | 226.2 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation |  | 78.0 |  |  | 78.0 |
| Net Utility Plant |  | 148.2 |  |  | 148.2 |
| Current Assets: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cash |  | 4.4 |  |  | 4.4 |
| Accounts Receivable -- Net Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$0.4 and \$1.6 |  | 4.8 |  |  | 4.8 |
| Accrued Revenue |  | 8.7 |  |  | 8.7 |
| Due from Affiliates |  | - |  |  | - |
| Gas Inventory |  | 11.3 |  |  | 11.3 |
| Prepayments and Other |  | 2.4 |  |  | 2.4 |
| Total Current Assets |  | 31.6 |  |  | 31.6 |
| Deferred Income Taxes |  | - |  |  | - |
| Noncurrent Assets: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Regulatory Assets |  | 15.6 |  |  | 15.6 |
| Other Noncurrent Assets |  | 19.2 | 0.4 (A) |  | 19.6 |
| Total Noncurrent Assets |  | 34.8 | 0.4 |  | 35.2 |
| TOTAL | \$ | 214.6 |  | \$ | 215.0 |

(A) Debt issuance costs

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NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.
UNAUDITED BALANCE SHEET AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009
Proformed for the Issuance and Sale of $\mathbf{\$ 2 0 , 0 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ Senior Unsecured Notes
(\$ in Millions, Except Par Value and Stock Shares Data)

## CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES:


(B) Equity contribution from Unitil Corporation
(C) Proposed offering of Senior Unsecured Notes
(D) Repayment of short-term debt

DG 09-

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.
UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF EARNINGS FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009
Proformed for the Issuance and Sale of $\$ \mathbf{2 0 , 0 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ Senior Unsecured Notes
(\$ in Millions)

|  | ACTUAL |  | ADJUSTMENTS |  | PRO FORMA |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Operating Revenues | \$ | 83.1 |  |  | \$ | 83.1 |
| Operating Expenses: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Purchased Gas |  | 52.4 |  |  |  | 52.4 |
| Operation and Maintenance |  | 11.4 |  |  |  | 11.4 |
| Conservation \& Load Management |  | 1.3 |  |  |  | 1.3 |
| Depreciation and Amortization |  | 5.2 |  | 0.03 (A) |  | 5.2 |
| Provisions for Taxes: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Local Property and Other |  | 2.1 |  |  |  | 2.1 |
| Federal and State Income |  | 1.9 |  | (0.27) (B) |  | 1.6 |
| Total Operating Expense |  | 74.3 |  | (0.24) |  | 74.1 |
| Operating Income |  | 8.8 |  | 0.24 |  | 9.0 |
| Non-operating Income |  | 0.3 |  |  |  | 0.3 |
| Income Before Interest Expense |  | 9.1 |  | 0.24 |  | 9.3 |
| Interest Expense |  | 5.1 |  | 0.80 (C) |  | 5.9 |
| Net Income | \$ | 4.0 | \$ | (0.56) | \$ | 3.4 |

(A) Assumes financing fees and expenses amortized over 10 years
(B) Utilizes effective tax rate of $32.2 \%$
(C) Reflects interest savings at $2.0 \%$ for repayment of short-term debt and interest expense at $7.8 \%$ from proposed financing
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NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.
CAPITAL STRUCTURE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009
Proformed for the Issuance and Sale of \$20,000,000 Senior Unsecured Notes
(\$ In Millions)

## Excluding Short-Term Debt

|  | Actual |  | Adjustments | Pro Forma |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Amount | \% of Total | Amount | Amount | \% of Total |
| Senior Unsecured Notes | \$80.0 | 54.2\% | \$20.0 | \$100.0 | 58.0\% |
| Common Equity | 67.5 | 45.8\% | 5.0 | 72.5 | 42.0\% |
| Total | \$147.5 | 100.0\% | \$25.0 | \$172.5 | 100.0\% |

Including Short-Term Debt

|  | Actual |  | $\frac{\text { Adjustments }}{\text { Amount }}$ | Pro Forma |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Amount | \% of Total |  | Amount | \% of Total |
| Senior Unsecured Notes | \$80.0 | 44.3\% | \$20.0 | \$100.0 | 55.2\% |
| Short-Term Debt | 33.2 | 18.4\% | (\$24.6) | 8.6 | 4.7\% |
| Common Equity | 67.5 | 37.4\% | 5.0 | 72.5 | 40.0\% |
| Total | \$180.7 | 100.0\% | \$0.4 | \$181.1 | 100.0\% |

## CERTIFICATE

VOTED: That the proposed issuance and sale to an institutional investor(s) by private placement of up to Thirty Million Dollars $(\$ 30,000,000)$ aggregate principal amount of Long Term Senior Notes of Northern Utilities, Inc. (the "Company") be and hereby are approved in principle, such Long Term Senior Notes to be sold at such price and to have such terms and provisions as may be determined by the Board of Directors; and further

That the President, any Vice President, and the Treasurer of this Company be and they are, and each of them singly is hereby authorized in the name of and on behalf of the Company, to execute and file with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, the Maine Public Utilities Commission, and any other regulatory authority having jurisdiction petitions for the approval and authorization of up to Thirty Million Dollars ( $\$ 30,000,000$ ) of Long Term Senior Notes; and that the President, any Vice President, and the Treasurer of this Company be and they are, and each of them singly is, hereby authorized in the name and on behalf of this Company to execute and file with said regulatory authorities any amendments to said petitions as may be necessary or desirable in connection with the foregoing; and further

That the officers of this Company be and they are, and each of them singly is, hereby authorized and directed in the name of and on behalf of the Company to execute such documents, including the engagement of a financial advisor; and do all such acts and things and to take all such other steps as may be necessary or advisable or convenient and proper to carry out the intent of the foregoing votes.

## I, Sandra L. Whitney, hereby certify that I am Secretary of Northern Utilities, Inc.;

that the foregoing is a true copy from the record of votes unanimously adopted at a meeting of the
Directors of said Company, duly called and held September 23, 2009, at which meeting a quorum was present and acting throughout; and that the said votes have not since been altered, amended or rescinded.

WITNESS my hand and the corporate seal of Northern Utilities, Inc. this 13th day of November, 2009.


