

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**PETITION FOR INCREASE IN SHORT
DEBT**

**NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.
Petitioner**

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) **DOCKET NO. DG 11-__**
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**MOTION FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT
AND PROTECTIVE ORDER**

Northern Utilities, Inc. (“Northern” or the “Company”) respectfully requests that the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) grant a protective order for certain confidential information contained in the Company’s “Petition for Approval of Increase in Short Term Debt” (“Petition”), consistent with RSA 91-A:5(IV) and N.H. Admin. Rules, Puc 203.08. Specifically, Northern requests that the Commission issue an order requiring confidential treatment for:

- (a) Page 7, line 3 through page 8, line 12, of the testimony of David L. Chong, Director of Finance for Unitil Service Corp., filed in support of the Petition.

In support of this Motion, Northern states as follows:

1. In its Petition, Northern seeks Commission approval for an increase in its short term debt limit formula.

2. Northern seeks protection from public disclosure for the information contained in the portion of the testimony of Mr. Chong referenced above because it presents confidential and proprietary projections of Northern’s sources of capital.

Northern has not disclosed this information in any other forum. The Company has a

significant privacy interest in this information. Disclosure of this information could compromise Northern's bargaining position in obtaining new sources of capital to the detriment of Northern and its customers. Granting Northern's request to protect the Report from public disclosure is consistent with Order No. 24,658, in which the Commission recognized the need of UES to maintain the confidentiality of its financial forecasts and other information related to its financings.

8. RSA 91-A:5(IV) expressly exempts from the public disclosure requirements of the Right-to-Know law, RSA 91-A, any records pertaining to "confidential, commercial or financial information." The Commission's rule on confidential treatment of public records, Puc 203.08, also recognizes that confidential, commercial or financial information may be appropriately protected from public disclosure pursuant to an order of the Commission.

9. Northern's request for a protective order is not inconsistent with the public disclosure requirements of the Right-to-Know law, RSA 91-A. This statute generally provides open access to public records, but the Commission has recognized that the determination whether to disclose confidential information involves a balancing of the public's interest in full disclosure with the countervailing commercial or private interests for non-disclosure. In previous Commission Orders (Order No. 24,212 and Order No. 24,284) the Commission has recognized the need of UES to maintain the confidentiality of information concerning its projected financings. In those orders the Commission determined that UES had provided credible arguments as to the strategic and commercial sensitivity of the information and that the interests of Unitil and its ratepayers in non-

disclosure outweighed the public interest in obtaining access to the information. In this instance, Northern submits that the same considerations apply in this instance.

WHEREFORE, UES respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order protecting the confidential information specified herein from public disclosure.

Respectfully submitted,

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.
By its Attorney,



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Dated: September 15, 2011

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on this 15th day of September, 2011, I caused a copy of the within Motion to be hand-delivered to the Office of Consumer Advocate.



Gary Epler