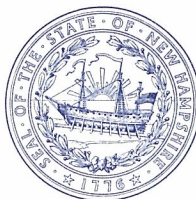


THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Debra A. Howland



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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December 15, 2009

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director
N.H. Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Re: DG 06-098 Northern Utilities, Inc.
2006 Long-Range Integrated Resource Plan
Stipulation and Settlement Agreement



Dear Ms. Howland:

Staff and Northern Utilities, Inc. have entered into a stipulation and settlement agreement in this docket. The fully executed agreement is attached. Staff and Northern respectfully request a hearing date be set to allow Staff and Northern to present this agreement and testimony to the Commissioners. The settling parties anticipate needing a half-day hearing.

The agreement is the product of lengthy negotiations which included the Staff of the Maine Public Utilities Commission. The Maine Staff cannot execute settlements, however, the Maine Staff has authorized me to state that it will be recommending approval of the settlement agreement in their MPUC Docket No. 2006-390. The Maine Office of the Public Advocate will also be supporting the agreement in the Maine docket.

As to intervenors in the instant docket, Hess Corporation does not oppose the settlement. Office of the Consumer Advocate has withdrawn its participation in this docket. KeySpan, an additional intervenor monitoring this docket, did not participate in drafting the attached settlement agreement and thus takes no position on the agreement.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcia A. B. Thunberg".

Marcia A. B. Thunberg
Staff Attorney

Attachment: Stipulation and Settlement
cc: Service List