STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. d/b/a National Grid NH

Docket DG 10-017

PETITION FOR TEMPORARY RATES

EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. d/b/a National Grid NH (the "Company"), pursuant to RSA 378:27, petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission") to fix, determine and prescribe, effective with service rendered on and after June 1, 2010, reasonable temporary rates pending the Commission's final decision on the Company's request for permanent rate relief in this docket. In support thereof, the Company states as follows:

1. In accordance with N.H. Code of Admin. Rule Puc 1604.05, on January 26, 2010, the Company filed a Notice of Intent to File Rate Schedules with the Commission and the Office of Consumer Advocate.

2. Contemporaneous with this Petition for Temporary Rates, the Company is filing revised tariff pages to Tariff NHPUC No. 6 – Gas and supporting testimony and related materials proposing changes to the Company's permanent rates that are intended to yield an increase of $11,422,718 in the Company's annual operating revenues in order to afford the Company an opportunity to earn a reasonable return on its investment necessary to provide service to its customers.

3. As is set forth in the joint written testimony of Mr. Frank Lombardo and Ms. Ann Leary accompanying this petition, the Company earned a return on equity of

3.9% based on its rate base and operating revenues and expenses for the twelve months ending December 31, 2009 and 4.4% for the twelve months ending December 31, 2008. In addition, for the test year that forms the basis of the Company's request for permanent rate relief (the twelve months ended June 30, 2009), the Company's overall earned rate of return was 3.35%. The Company's last allowed rate of return on equity was 9.54% and its last allowed overall rate of return was 8.28%, both of which were determined in Docket DG 08-009, as set forth in Commission Order No. 24,792 issued May 29, 2009.

4. The rate of return earned by the Company during the test year fell substantially below its last allowed rate of return in large part as a result of the substantial non-revenue producing rate base additions made since the test year in the Company's last base rate case as well as significant increases in certain operating expenses, including pensions and other post-retirement benefit plans, uncollectible accounts and property taxes.

5. Unless temporary and, ultimately, permanent rate relief is granted, the Company will not earn a reasonable rate of return on the cost of its property that is used and useful in the public service. The continuation of current rates will result in the confiscation of the Company's property.

6. The reports on file with the Commission and supporting documentation filed in connection with the Company's permanent rate request and with this petition demonstrate that the Company is entitled to an increase in rates in order to have an opportunity to earn a reasonable rate of return. The Company therefore requests that the Commission authorize it to increase rates on a temporary basis, pursuant to RSA 378:27, in order to generate an increase of $5,711,359 in annual operating revenues.

7. The temporary rate relief requested by this petition will increase customers' total bills on average by approximately 3.47%. The revenue increase resulting therefrom would constitute 50% of the revenue deficiency calculated based on the Company's rate base and adjusted test year net operating income as shown in its permanent rate filing, and approximately 37% of the revenue deficiency supported by the records on file with the Commission based on the Company's last allowed rate of return. (See Attachment FL/AEL-1 to the prefiled temporary rate testimony of Mr. Frank Lombardo and Ms. Ann Leary.)

8. The Company requests that the Commission implement the temporary rate increase by increasing current rates for all classes of service on an equiproportional basis. A Report of Proposed Rate Changes setting forth the temporary rates proposed by the Company is included as Attachment FL/AEL-2 to the temporary rate testimony of Mr. Lombardo and Ms. Leary.

9. To the extent necessary to support this petition, the Company incorporates by reference the testimony and supporting materials filed in support of its request for permanent rate relief.

10. The temporary rates proposed herein are just and reasonable, and therefore should be authorized by the Commission.

WHEREFORE, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission:

A. Grant this Petition for Temporary Rates, allowing the Company an increase in the amount of $5,711,359 in annual operating revenue to be effective with service rendered on and after June 1, 2010;

B. Order such temporary rates to remain in effect until a determination of the Company's request for a permanent rate increase; and

C. Grant such other relief as is just and reasonable and consistent with the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc.
d/b/a National Grid NH

By Its Attorneys

MCLANE, GRAF, RAULERSON &
MIDDLETON, P.A.

Dated: February 26, 2010

By: _____

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of this Petition for Temporary Rates has been hand-delivered to Meredith A. Hatfield, Esq. this 26th day of February, 2010.

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Steven V. Camerino