

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

August 16, 2017 - 10:05 a.m.  
Concord, New Hampshire

25 AUG '17 4:59

RE: DG 17-104  
NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.:  
Request to Change Delivery Service  
Terms and Conditions.  
(Prehearing conference)

**PRESENT:** Chairman Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding  
Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey

Sandy Deno, Clerk

**APPEARANCES:** Reptg. Northern Utilities, Inc.:  
Patrick Taylor, Esq.

Reptg. Direct Energy Business  
Marketing, LLC:  
Douglas L. Patch, Esq. (Orr & Reno)

Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:  
D. Maurice Kreis, Esq., Consumer Adv.  
Office of Consumer Advocate

Reptg. PUC Staff:  
John Clifford, Esq.  
Stephen Frink, Asst. Dir./Gas & Water  
Al-Azad Iqbal, Gas & Water Division

Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

**CERTIFIED  
ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT**

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**DISCUSSION REGARDING INTERVENTION:** 4

**STATEMENTS OF PRELIMINARY POSITION BY:**

Mr. Taylor 5

Mr. Patch 5

Mr. Kreis 6

Mr. Clifford 7

**P R O C E E D I N G**

1  
2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Good morning,  
3 everyone. We're here in Docket DG 17-104,  
4 which is a filing by Northern Utilities to  
5 change its delivery service terms and  
6 conditions related to the way it allocates  
7 certain expenses and allocations of capacity.

8 We're here for a prehearing  
9 conference. We know that there's a technical  
10 session scheduled immediately thereafter.

11 But, before we do anything else,  
12 let's take appearances.

13 MR. TAYLOR: Good morning,  
14 Commissioners. Patrick Taylor, on behalf of  
15 Northern Utilities. With me today are Fran  
16 Wells and Rob Furino, from the Company's Gas  
17 Contracting Division; and Chris Kahl, from the  
18 Company's Regulatory Division.

19 MR. PATCH: Good morning,  
20 Commissioners. Doug Patch, with the law firm  
21 of Orr & Reno. I'm here today on behalf of  
22 Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC.

23 MR. KREIS: Good morning. D. Maurice  
24 Kreis here. I am the head of the Office of the

1 Consumer Advocate. And we're here today, of  
2 course, on behalf of residential utility  
3 customers.

4 MR. CLIFFORD: Good morning,  
5 Commissioners. John Clifford, on behalf of  
6 Commission Staff. And with me at counsel's  
7 table is Steve Frink, Assistant Director of the  
8 Commission's Gas & Water Division, and Al-Azad  
9 Iqbal, a Staff Analyst in the Gas & Water  
10 Division.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: As Mr. Patch  
12 alluded, he represents Direct Energy. I don't  
13 think we saw anything in response to his  
14 filing. Does anybody have any position on the  
15 intervention of Direct Energy?

16 MR. TAYLOR: No position.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Anyone else?

18 MR. CLIFFORD: We have no position.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. We  
20 can't think of a reason why they wouldn't be  
21 appropriate intervenors in this matter. So,  
22 that petition is granted.

23 Are there other preliminary matters  
24 we need to deal with, before we hear from the

1 parties and their preliminary positions?

2 *[No verbal response.]*

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.

4 Mr. Taylor, why don't you proceed.

5 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you. The Petition  
6 that is now before the Commission is, in the  
7 Company's eyes, something -- a filing that we  
8 made to bring New Hampshire's delivery service  
9 terms and conditions into unity with the  
10 delivery service terms and conditions in Maine.  
11 These primarily address issues related to  
12 capacity assignment and the way that capacity  
13 is assigned to customers in the State of New  
14 Hampshire.

15 We believe it's a very  
16 straightforward filing. It's something that  
17 will enable the Company to move forward with --  
18 in concert with its Maine Division. And we  
19 look forward to working with the Staff, the  
20 OPA [OCA?], and the intervenors.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Patch.

22 MR. PATCH: Thank you. On behalf of  
23 Direct, I would say that, as a preliminary  
24 position, they have some concerns with the

1 terms and conditions, and the impact it will  
2 have on their business, on their customers, and  
3 on the market. They are hopeful that those  
4 concerns could be addressed in a cooperative  
5 way.

6 We understand that Northern is  
7 looking to have this docket come to a  
8 conclusion sometime in September. So, from a  
9 procedural perspective, Direct would like a  
10 procedure that would allow for perhaps a  
11 submission of some comments by Direct, and an  
12 opportunity to sit down with the Company and  
13 Staff and the OCA to see if they could work  
14 through those issues. That's something,  
15 obviously, we can talk about more during the  
16 technical session.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Kreis.

18 MR. KREIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
19 The OCA's interest, of course, is always in  
20 minimizing the extent to which one group of  
21 customers is subsidized by the residential  
22 utility customers that we represent. I  
23 understand the purpose of the Company's  
24 proposal to be, in addition to the uniformity

1 that Mr. Taylor alluded to, to be reducing the  
2 extent to which there are any such cross  
3 subsidies. So, I think we anticipate resolving  
4 this docket rather quickly.

5 We're interested in hearing the  
6 concerns that Mr. Patch just promised to  
7 articulate. And we look forward to resolving  
8 the docket on the schedule contemplated by the  
9 Company.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Clifford.

11 MR. CLIFFORD: Staff is supportive in  
12 principle and appreciative of the Company  
13 keeping us informed with the proceedings in the  
14 State of Maine docket, which I believe has just  
15 been approved recently in the beginning of  
16 August is my understanding.

17 We've already issued our first set of  
18 data requests. The Company's responses came in  
19 last evening. And we're going to be reviewing  
20 those responses as soon as conveniently  
21 possible.

22 And we intend to develop our position  
23 based on our analysis of the information  
24 gathered during the proceedings. We don't take

1 any explicit position at this time, but we are  
2 hopeful that Staff would be able to file a  
3 recommendation or make a recommendation before  
4 the requested effective date of November 1st.  
5 And we also are interested in hearing from  
6 Direct, through Mr. Patch, in the technical  
7 session following.

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Is  
9 there anything else we can do for you before we  
10 leave you to your technical session?

11 *[No verbal response.]*

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. With  
13 that, we'll adjourn the prehearing conference.  
14 Thank you all.

15 ***(Whereupon the prehearing***  
16 ***conference was adjourned at***  
17 ***10:11 a.m., and a technical***  
18 ***session was held thereafter.)***