

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

DG 18-143

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC. – NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION

2018/2019 COST OF GAS

PETITION TO INTERVENE

NOW COMES Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC (hereinafter “Direct Energy”), and, pursuant to RSA 541-A:32 and N.H. Admin. R. Puc 203.17, respectfully petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for intervention as a full party in the above-captioned proceeding. In support of this petition, Direct Energy states as follows:

1. On September 17, 2018, Northern Utilities, Inc. (“Northern”) submitted a Winter 2018/2019 and Summer 2019 cost of gas (COG) filing seeking approval of its COG rates for the winter period (November 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019) and the summer period (May 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019), and proposed local delivery adjustment clause (LDAC) charges for the period of November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019. The filing contains other revisions to the tariff, including changes to the Delivery Service Terms and Conditions, as well as changes to the Supplier Balancing Charge and Peaking Service Demand Charge.

2. On September 28, 2018, the Commission issued an Order of Notice, establishing an intervention date of October 17, 2018, a technical session to be held on October 17, 2018, and a hearing to be held on October 22, 2018. In that Order, the Commission noted that the filing raises issues related to the justness and reasonableness of rates under RSA 374:2; forecasts of sales, supplier prices, and transportation prices; calculations of indirect gas costs,

purchasing decisions, and capacity/revenue projections; reconciliation of prior period costs and revenues; and the prudence and recovery of environmental remediation.

3. Direct Energy is registered as a Competitive Natural Gas Supplier in the state of New Hampshire and currently serves small and large commercial and industrial natural gas customers in the state of New Hampshire. Direct Energy is a subsidiary of Centrica plc, a Fortune Global 500 company, based in the United Kingdom (formerly known as British Gas). It is one of the largest competitive retail and wholesale providers of electricity, natural gas, solar design and installation services, and home energy services in all of North America with nearly 5 million customer relationships with multiple brands in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and 10 Canadian provinces.

4. By this Petition, Direct Energy is seeking full intervention in the instant proceeding. The statutory standards for intervention, set forth in RSA 541-A:32, I and II, provide that a petition for intervention *must* be granted if the petitioner states facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding (or the petitioner qualifies under any provision of law) and the interests of justice and orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings would not be impaired by allowing intervention. *See* RSA 541-A:32, I(b) and (c). In addition, the Commission has the authority to grant a petition to intervene “at any time, upon determining that such intervention would be in the interests of justice and would not impair the orderly conduct of the proceedings.” RSA 541-A:32, II. *See also* N.H. Admin. R. Puc 203.17 (requiring the Commission to grant one or more petitions to intervene in accordance with the standards of RSA 541-A:32).

5. As a Competitive Supplier of natural gas registered with the Commission serving natural gas customers in the state, Direct Energy qualifies for intervention under the mandatory provisions of RSA 541-A: 32,I because its substantial interests will be affected by the proceeding. The Commission's decision on the proposed COG will have a direct effect on Direct Energy's business and its customers.

As part of its pre-filed testimony, Northern discusses proposed changes to Section 14 (Peaking Service) of its Delivery Service Terms and Conditions for New Hampshire that will "improve[e] cost certainty related to Peaking Service Demand costs to retail marketers." *See* Prefiled Testimony of Francis X. Wells, Page 28. Direct Energy is one of the retail marketers that will be directly affected by these proposed changes.

6. Direct Energy also qualifies for intervention under the discretionary standard articulated in RSA 541-A:32, II. The interests of justice and orderly conduct of the proceedings would be promoted by granting Direct Energy intervention. As an affiliate of one of the largest competitive retail and wholesale providers of natural gas in Norther America, Direct Energy has extensive knowledge and expertise regarding natural gas and the issues to be addressed in this docket. The Commission will benefit from Direct Energy's participation in this docket.

7. Direct Energy intervened in the 2017-2018 Cost of Gas, Proposed Increase in Peaking Service Demand Charge proceeding (DG 17-144), in which Northern sought approval of an increase in the peaking service demand charge due to the cold snap in the Winter of 2017-2018. After a hearing, the Commission approved Northern's increase in the Peaking Service Demand Charge and noted, "We also find that collaboration among Staff, Northern, the OCA, and marketers during the pendency of the next COG season regarding the issues raised in this proceeding could be beneficial, and therefore encourage such efforts." Order No. 26,120. Direct

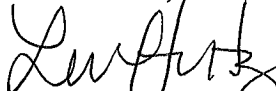
Energy seeks intervention in the current proceeding in order to continue its collaboration with Northern as encouraged to do so in Order No. 26,120.

8. Direct Energy's intervention here will not impair the orderly conduct of this proceeding. If allowed to intervene, Direct Energy will abide by the Commission's rules and the procedural schedule in this docket.

WHEREFORE, Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC respectfully requests that the Commission grant it full party status as an intervenor in this proceeding and that it grant such other relief as the Commission deems just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Its Attorneys
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Dated: October 16, 2018

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Petition has on this 16th day of October, 2018, been either sent by electronic or first class mail, postage prepaid, to persons listed on the Service List.

NH Bar
269606

Lauraffitz for Doug Patch
Douglas L. Patch

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