

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

DOCKET NO. DG 19-126

Northern Utilities, Inc.

2019-2024 Integrated Resource Plan

Motion for Clarification of Order No. 26,683

NOW COMES Northern Utilities, Inc. (“Northern” or the “Company”) and respectfully moves the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) to clarify its recent ruling in Order No. 26,683 (September 13, 2022) (the “Order”) suspending Order No. 26,664 (August 8, 2022) pertaining to Northern’s Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan (“LCIRP”).

In support of this Motion, Northern states as follows:

1. In Order No. 26,382 (July 23, 2020), the Commission approved a settlement agreement pertaining to Northern’s then-pending LCIRP. That settlement, and the Commission’s approval, included provisions relating to a working group process that would be used to develop recommendations for Northern’s future LCIRP filings. At that time, the Commission directed the working group to file a report (the “Report”) of its findings and recommendations on or before July 1, 2021 and directed the Company to file its next LCIRP within one year of the Report, on or before July 1, 2022. *Northern Utilities, Inc.*, Order No. 26,382 at 7 (July 23, 2020). By a later order *nisi*, the Commission granted the working group’s request to extend the deadline for the Report, and waived the requirement that a Northern’s next LCIRP be filed within two years of the Commission Order approving the prior LCIRP. *Northern Utilities, Inc.*, Order No. 26,510 (August 20, 2021) at 4. On December 29, 2021, Northern filed a motion requesting the Commission extend the time to file the Report until March 31, 2022, and

to extend the deadline for the Company's next LCIRP submission to March 31, 2023, one year after the Report. On March 31, 2022, Northern filed the Report.

2. On August 8, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 26,664 making certain rulings and findings relative to the Report and to Northern's LCIRP filings more generally. Order No. 26,664 also granted the pending request to extend the deadline for Northern's next LCIRP filing to March 31, 2023. Order No. 26,664 at 18. On August 17, 2022, the OCA filed a Motion for Rehearing or Clarification pertaining to Order No. 26,664 and on September 7, 2022, Northern filed a Motion for Rehearing of the same order. Neither the OCA, nor Northern, sought rehearing of the Commission's finding that the deadline for Northern's next LCIRP filing be set at March 31, 2023.

3. On September 13, 2022, the Commission issued the Order and concluded that "a suspension of the Order is necessary to allow additional time to consider the two pending motions for rehearing." Order No. 26,683 at 2. Accordingly, the Commission ordered that "Order No. 26,664 is suspended until further Commission action on the pending motions for rehearing." *Id.* The Order does not differentiate between suspending the various substantive rulings in Order No. 26,664, and the procedural ruling on the deadline for Northern's next LCIRP filing.

4. By this motion, Northern requests that the Commission clarify the Order to make plain that regardless of the suspension of Order No. 26,664 Northern's next LCIRP filing will be due on or by March 31, 2023. As noted, no party sought rehearing of that ruling and, therefore, Northern contends that that procedural finding should not be disturbed by the suspension of the substantive provisions of Order No. 26,664 while the motions are under consideration. Northern appreciates that when granting the request to set the deadline at March 31, 2023, the Commission

continued to “encourage” the Company to file its LCIRP by December 31, 2022, and Northern will endeavor to submit its filing as soon as practicable. However, in light of the suspension it is presently unclear what the precise scope of Northern next LCIRP will be. Thus, maintaining the deadline at March 31, 2023 will help to assure that the Company will have adequate time to submit a filing most aligned with the requirements of the relevant LCIRP statutes and the expectations of the Commission.

WHEREFORE, Northern respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Grant clarification that Northern’s next LCIRP filing is due on or by March 31, 2023 as described above; and
- B. Grant such additional relief as is just and appropriate.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

By Its Attorney,



Matthew J. Fossum
Senior Counsel, Unitil Service Corp.
6 Liberty Lane West
Hampton, NH 03842-1720
603.773.6537
fossumm@unitil.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have caused copies of the above to be served on the service list in Docket No. DG 19-126.



Dated: September 15, 2022.

Matthew J. Fossum