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May 25, 2022

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DG 21-104; Northern Utilities, Inc., Petition for Change in Rates; Department of Energy Request for Leave for Witnesses to Testify Remotely

Dear Chairman Goldner:

By Procedural Orders dated October 13, 2021 and April 26, 2022, the Commission set hearings in this case for June 2, 7 and 8. On May 12, 2022, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern) notified the Commission that it had reached a comprehensive settlement in principle with the parties to the case, namely the Department of Energy and the Office of Consumer Advocate. The settlement agreement and related attachments are in the final stages of preparation and will be filed by Northern shortly, along with a request to hold a hearing on the settlement on either June 7 or 8.

The Department of Energy filed written testimony of two consultants in this case, Dr. J. Randall Woolridge on cost of capital issues and Donna H. Mullinax of Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc., on revenue requirements issues. The Department plans to have these witnesses testify at the hearing in support of the settlement on June 7 or 8, as finally scheduled.

To significantly reduce witness travel time and related expenses (which will flow into rate case expenses requested to be recovered from ratepayers) the Department respectfully requests leave for these witnesses, to testify remotely. Dr. Woolridge is based in Pennsylvania and Donna Mullinax in South Carolina. Both would need to travel overnight to testify in person.

The Department regrettably makes this request with a few days less than the 15-day notice period required by the Hearing Guidelines of April 26 and regrets any inconvenience caused by this late request.

Consistent with the Commission's *Temporary Changes in Filing Requirements* (March 17, 2020) this letter is being filed solely in electronic form.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Paul B. Dexter*

Paul B. Dexter  
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner

Cc: Service List