

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 21-104

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

Request for Change in Rates

**Procedural Order Re: Motion to Cancel June 2, 2022 Hearing Date
and Requests for Hybrid Hearing**

On May 26, 2022, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern) filed a motion requesting the Commission to cancel the hearing in the above-captioned matter on June 2, 2022 as unnecessary, stating that it, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE), and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) would be filing a settlement agreement with the Commission in the next several days. Northern requested the Commission to hold a hearing on the settlement agreement on either of the two remaining hearing dates, June 7, or June 8, 2022. According to Northern, the DOE assented to its request, but the OCA had not yet taken a position.

Since the 10-day period to object will expire after June 2, 2022, New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Puc 203.07(e) is waived regarding Northern's motion and the pending requests for remote participation. Northern's motion is GRANTED, and a one-day hearing on the parties' settlement agreement is scheduled on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, starting at 9:00 am, with June 8, 2022 as a back-up day, if necessary. This hearing will be conducted in person in accordance with the hearing guidelines issued on April 26, 2022, so that all filings must be received on May 31, 2022; otherwise, this hearing, and the processing of the related petition in Docket No. DG 22-020, may be delayed.

Late requests for remote participation at the hearing were filed by the DOE on May 25, 2022 and by Northern on May 26, 2022. The DOE requested permission for the following two out-of-state consultants to appear remotely:

Dr. J. Randall Woolridge, who is based in Pennsylvania; and
Donna Mullinax, who is based in South Carolina.

Similarly, Northern requested permission for the following out-of-state witnesses to appear remotely:

John Taylor, who is based in South Carolina;
Ronald Amen, who is based in South Carolina;
Timothy Lyons, who resides in northern Vermont; and
Ned Allis, who is based in Pennsylvania.

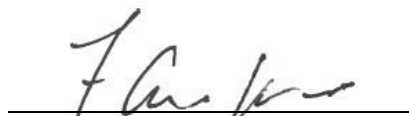
As all of the foregoing witnesses would be required to incur significant costs and to travel some distance in order to attend the hearing, it has been determined that good reason has been provided for them to appear remotely, so that these requests are GRANTED. A hybrid hearing format will be used for the June 7 hearing (and on June 8, if necessary) to accommodate these witnesses only.

Northern also requested permission for witnesses John Cochrane, who is based in Boston, Massachusetts, and Jonathan Giegerich, whose employer is in Hampstead, New Hampshire, to appear remotely at the hearing. Northern mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a concern, but it did not state any specific reason why either of these witnesses would be unable to participate in person at the hearing. Accordingly, Northern's request for Mr. Cochrane and Mr. Giegerich to appear remotely at the June 7 hearing is DENIED.

So ordered, this twenty-seventh day of May, 2022.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



F. Anne Ross
Special Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-104

Printed: 5/27/2022

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