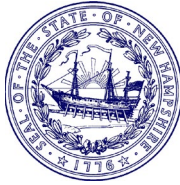


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October 19, 2022

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: DG 22-059 Northern Utilities Inc. 2022-2023 Cost of Gas
DOE Exhibits and request to waive late filing

Dear Chairman Goldner:

On behalf of the Department of Energy (DOE), please find the parties' *Revised Joint Exhibit List* for October 20, 2022 hearing and DOE Exhibits 8-12 (enclosed). Exhibits 8-12, are being provided after Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern) filed the parties joint exhibit list and Northern's exhibit on October 13, 2022.

The DOE seeks the Commission's waiver of late filing. While mindful that the *Hearing Guidelines* in this docket require filing five business days in advance of hearing, the DOE required time to review Northern's response to data requests, which were not filed until October 17, 2022 after the close of business. Therefore, as of the filing deadline, DOE did not have the Northern's data responses. In addition, cost of gas (COG) dockets are generally expedited matters, requiring shorter advance filing than normal, and this year all three gas utilities have made multiple supplemental filings, further adding complexity to the process. Northern's initial filing was September 16, 2022, with supplemental filings on September 23 and October 4, and (based on information and belief) further updates in the exhibits themselves (as filed on 10/13/22), with data response provided October 17, 2022 as stated above.

Waiver is in the public interest because the additional exhibits shed light on important docket matters, and may expedite the hearing scheduled for October 20, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. In addition, it is reasonable that the DOE could not file what it did not yet possess. Waiving the hearing guideline's October 13 filing deadline will not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party. Excluding the exhibits would cause DOE undue hardship. Finally, both Northern and the Office of the Consumer Advocate, assent to the addition of these DOE exhibits and assent to waiver of late filing. Accordingly, the Commission should waive DOE's late filing, and accept the exhibits for identification at hearing. *See* PUC 201.05.

(continued)

The parties' Revised Joint Exhibit List is as follows:

1. [Northern] September 16, 2022 Initial Filing—Confidential Version
2. [Northern] September 16, 2022 Initial Filing—Redacted Version
3. [Northern] September 23, 2022 Supplemental Filing- -Confidential Version
4. [Northern] September 23, 2022 Supplemental Filing – Redacted Version
5. [Northern] October 4, 2022 Second Supplemental Filing
6. [Northern] Combined Initial and Supplemental Filings showing updates from supplements- Confidential Version
7. [Northern] Combined Initial and Supplemental Filings showing updates from supplements—Redacted Version
8. [DOE] Northern's Oct. 17, 2022 Response to DOE Data Request (DR) 1-3 with attachment
9. [DOE] Northern's Oct. 17, 2022 Response to DOE DR 1-4
10. [DOE] Northern's Oct. 17, 2022 Response to DOE DR 1-6 with attachment
11. [DOE] Northern's Oct. 17, 2022 Response to DOE DR 1-9
12. [DOE] Northern's Oct. 17, 2022 Response to DOE DR 1-10 (without attachments)

Consistent with the Commission's current policy, this letter is being filed solely in electronic form. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer

Mary.E. Schwarzer
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner
Department of Energy

Cc: Docket (electronic service)
Enclosures

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