

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

**DE 22-059**

**NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.**

**2022-2023 Annual Cost of Gas**

**NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC. MOTION FOR HYBRID HEARING**

Northern Utilities, Inc. (“Northern” or the “Company”) hereby respectfully moves the Commission, pursuant to Puc 203.07, to conduct evidentiary hearings in the above-captioned docket on a hybrid basis to allow participation by a Company witness who cannot appear in person due to health concerns. In support of this motion, Northern states:

1. On September 30, 2022, the Commission issued a “Commencement of Adjudicative Proceeding and Notice of Hearing” (“Notice”) in the instant docket observing that on September 16, 2022, Northern submitted its winter 2022-2023 and summer 2023 cost of gas (“COG”) filing outlining its proposed COG for the coming winter and summer periods. That filing also included proposed Local Distribution Adjustment Charges (“LDAC”) for the period of November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023. The initial COG filing was supplemented by a subsequent filing by Northern on September 23, 2022.

2. As part of its September 16 initial filing and its September 23 updated filing, the Company included the pre-filed direct testimony of S. Elena Demeris. Ms. Demeris’ testimony was focused upon the adjustment to the LDAC, including the adjustments to its underlying components.

3. In the Commission’s Notice, the Commission established a hearing date of October 20, 2022 in the COG proceeding. In addition, the Notice provided that the hearing would be

held in person, but that the Commission would consider “requests to conduct hearings using a hybrid format to permit remote participation by a specific individual only if the Commission has determined that a sufficient reason has been provided for why that individual would be unable to attend in person.” Notice at 4. The Commission noted that any party requesting remote participation must do so no later than 10 days prior to the hearing.

4. By this submission, Northern is timely requesting that Ms. Demeris be permitted to participate in the October 20, 2022 hearing remotely. Due to a health condition that results in mobility issues, Ms. Demeris is unable to travel to Concord for the October 20 hearing. Subject to that limitation, Ms. Demeris is otherwise qualified and capable of participating in the hearing. The Commission has previously granted requests for Ms. Demeris to participate remotely in other Commission hearings, *see* April 11, 2022 Procedural Order in Docket No. DE 20-092, and the Company believes that granting this request for a hybrid hearing will not prejudice any of the parties to this docket or the Commission, and will not impede the efficiency of the proceedings.

5. Unitil believes that good cause exists for a hybrid hearing and the Company’s request is reasonable under the circumstances, as it is necessary for the safety and health of Unitil’s witness and will not cause prejudice to any party to this proceeding or the Commission. The Company notes that its counsel and all other witnesses will be present in person at the hearing. Unitil therefore respectfully requests that the hearings in this case be conducted on a hybrid basis to allow for remote participation by Company witness S. Elena Demeris.

WHEREFORE, Unitil respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. The hearing in this matter be conducted on a hybrid basis to allow for remote participation by Unitil witness S. Elena Demeris; and
- B. Grant such further relief as may be just and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

By its Attorney:



Dated: October 3, 2022

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on October 3, 2022, a copy of the foregoing was electronically served upon the Service List.



Matthew J. Fossum