

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

**Northern Utilities, Inc.  
DG 23-\_\_\_\_\_**

**Petition For Approval of 2023-2024 Winter and 2024  
Summer Cost of Gas**

Pursuant to Puc 202.01, RSA 374:2 and RSA 378:7, Northern Utilities, Inc. (“Northern” or “the Company”) presents to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) for approval its proposed Annual Cost of Gas (“COG”) Adjustment filing including rates for the 2023-2024 winter period and for the 2024 summer period and other proposed rate and tariff changes. The Company is filing its COG to be effective November 1, 2023 and May 1, 2024. Specifically, Northern respectfully requests approval of the following Tariff Sheets:

Sixth Revised Page 40 (COG);  
Sixth Revised Page 41 (COG);  
Seventeenth Revised Page 42 (COG);  
Seventeenth Revised Page 43 (COG);  
Eleventh Revised Page 62 (LDAC);  
Twenty-fourth & Twenty-fifth Revised Page No. 86 (Rate Summaries);  
Twenty-third & Twenty-fourth Revised Page No. 88 (Rate Summaries);  
Seventh Revised Page 141 (Appendix A);  
Sixth Revised Page 153 (Appendix C); and  
Sixth Revised Page 158 (Appendix D).

The above listed Tariff Sheets are issued September 15, 2023 by Daniel Hurstak, Vice President and Treasurer, to be effective November 1, 2023 and May 1, 2024.

In support of its petition, Northern submits the prefiled testimonies of Christopher A. Kahl, Senior Regulatory Analyst for Unitil Service Corp. (“Unitil Service”), Francis Wells, Manager of Gas Supply for Unitil Service, Elena Demeris, Senior Regulator Analyst for Unitil Service, and Daniel Nawazelski, Manager of Revenue Requirements for Unitil Service. In

further support of its petition, Northern respectfully states:

1. The Commission oversees the calculation of Northern's COG rates and LDAC components, and the accuracy thereof, to ensure just and reasonable rates. *Northern Utilities, Inc.*, Order No. 26,713 at 8 (October 27, 2022).
2. The Commission has broad statutory authority to set rates in addition to "powers inherent within its broad grant" of express authority. *Id.* (citing *Appeal of Verizon New England, Inc.*, 153 N.H. 50, 64-66 (2005)). The Commission applies the "just and reasonable" ratemaking standard of RSA 374:2 and RSA 378:7 when setting COG rates. *Id.* (citing *Northern Utilities, Inc.*, Order No. 25,891 (April 29, 2016)).
3. The proposed 2023 / 2024 Winter Season COG rate for Residential customers is \$0.7282 per therm and the proposed 2024 Summer Season COG rate for Residential customers is \$0.5117 per therm.
4. The proposed LDAC Rate for Residential customers is \$0.0883 per therm.
5. The typical bill for a Residential heating customer for the 2023 / 2024 Winter Season is projected to be \$1,004.32. This is lower than the average 2022 / 2023 Winter Season bill by \$159.91 or 13.7%.
6. The typical bill for a Residential heating customer for the 2024 Summer Season is projected to be \$314.46. This is higher than the average 2023 Summer Season bill by \$16.52 or 5.54%.

For all of the reasons stated in this Petition and the accompanying Testimonies and Schedules, Northern respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Find that the Company's proposed rates for the 2023-2024 winter period and for the 2024 summer period are just and reasonable; and
- B. Approve the proposed rates for the 2023-2024 winter period and for the 2024 summer period, including other proposed rate and tariff changes contained in the Company's filings; and
- C. Grant such other approvals and relief as may be just, necessary and

appropriate in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.

By its attorney:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick H. Taylor", written over a horizontal line.

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