

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

DG 23-085

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

Petition for Approval of 2023-2024 Winter and 2024 Summer Cost of Gas

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

Northern Utilities, Inc. (“Northern” or “Company”) hereby respectfully requests that the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”), pursuant to Puc 203.07, conduct the 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 reasons. In support of this motion, Northern states:

1. On October 4, 2023, the Commission issued a “Commencement of Adjudicative Proceeding and Notice of Prehearing Conference” (“Notice”) in this docket.
2. In support of the Petition filed on September 15, 2023, Northern submitted Attachments that were prepared by S. Elena Demeris.
3. In the Commission’s Notice, the Commission established an evidentiary hearing date of October 26, 2023. In addition, the Notice provided that the evidentiary hearing and any hearings in this matter will 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 3-4.

4. By this Motion, Northern requests that Ms. Demeris be permitted to participate remotely in all hearings held in this proceeding. Due to a health condition that results in mobility issues, Ms. Demeris is unable to travel to Concord to appear in-person. Subject to that limitation, Ms. Demeris is otherwise qualified and capable of participating in the hearings. The Commission has previously granted requests for Ms. Demeris to participate remotely in other Commission hearings,¹ and granting this request for hybrid hearings in this matter will not prejudice any of the parties to this docket or the Commission, and will not impede the efficiency of the proceedings.

5. 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 Northern's witness and will not cause prejudice to any party to this proceeding or the Commission. The Company notes that counsel for Northern and other witnesses will be present in person at the hearings. The Northern therefore respectfully requests that the hearings in this case be conducted on a hybrid basis to allow for remote participation by Northern witness S. Elena Demeris.

¹ See February 21, 2023 Procedural Order in Docket No. 23-002; October 14, 2022 Procedural Order in Docket No. 22-059; April 11, 2022 Procedural Order in Docket No. DE 20-092.

WHEREFORE, Northern Utilities respectfully requests that the Commission:

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

Respectfully submitted

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

By their Attorney:

M. Alice Davey

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Dated: October 9, 2023

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on October 9, 2023, a copy of the foregoing was electronically served upon the Service List.

M. Alice Davey

Alice Davey