

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Northern Utilities, Inc.

Petition for Approval of Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factor

Docket No. DG 23-086

Motion to Reschedule October 23, 2023 Hearing

NOW COMES the Office of the Consumer Advocate (“OCA”), a party to this docket, and respectfully moves for the rescheduling of the hearing in this docket presently scheduled for October 23, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.. In support of this request, the OCA states as follows:

On October 4, 2023, the Commission issued a procedural order (tab 6) commencing an adjudicative proceeding in this docket and scheduling a merits hearing for October 23, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. This hearing conflicts with the previously scheduled quarterly meeting of the RSA 363:28-a Residential Ratepayers Advisory Board (“Advisory Board”).

The Advisory Board is required pursuant to RSA 363:28-a, V to meet at least quarterly and the statute specifies that “the consumer advocate shall be present for all board meetings.” It is the Advisory Board’s practice to adopt a schedule of quarterly meetings for the calendar year at its final meeting of the previous calendar year. Accordingly, the date of the upcoming Advisory Board meeting has

been publicly known for approximately a year and, indeed, it is the practice of the Office of the Consumer Advocate to request use of the Commission's hearing room for these meetings, the result being that the Commission itself is always aware of when the Advisory Board has planned to convene. Although not required by the statute, it has long been the expectation of the Advisory Board that not only the Consumer Advocate but also the entire staff of the Office of the Consumer Advocate will attend these meetings.

Because the Consumer Advocate is required by RSA 363:28, II to appear in Commission proceedings when the interests of residential utility customers are at issue (as they are in the instant proceeding), and because RSA 363:28-a, V requires the Consumer Advocate's attendance at Advisory Board meetings, it is important whenever possible for the Commission to avoid scheduling hearings and other events that conflict with Advisory Board meetings.

The Department of Energy has authorized me to state that it does not oppose the rescheduling request provided that the new hearing date is after October 23. The subject utility has not responded to the OCA's request for a position on the rescheduling motion.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Consumer Advocate respectfully requests that the hearing in this docket presently scheduled for October 23, 2023 be moved to a different date.

WHEREFORE, the OCA respectfully request that this honorable Commission:

- A. Grant the motion to reschedule the October 23, 2023 hearing in this docket, and
- B. Grant such further relief as shall be necessary and proper in the circumstances.

Sincerely,



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October 9, 2023

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of this pleading was provided via electronic mail to the individuals included on the Commission's service list for this docket.



Donald M. Kreis