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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

October 27, 2023

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

Re: DE 23-087 Northern Utilities Inc. Petition for Expedited Approval of Empress Capacity Agreement, *Department's Request to Enlarge its Filing Deadline from October 30, 2023 to November 3, 2023.*

Dear Chair Goldner:

The New Hampshire Department of Energy ("the Department" or "DOE") respectfully requests that the Commission permit the Department to enlarge the Department's proposed deadline for filing a Technical Statement or Position Statement from October 30, 2023 to November 3, 2023. *See Commission's Commencement of Adjudicative Proceeding and Notice of Prehearing Conference* (Oct. 12, 2023).

The Department seeks this enlargement of time due to the press of other business which could not otherwise be assigned, including but not limited to review, analysis, and multiple filings related to the recent discovery of a significant rate error in a pending cost of gas docket.

The Department's request for this enlargement of time is consistent with Commission requirements. *See* N.H. Code of Admin. Rules Puc 202.04. Circumstances "would cause undue hardship or inconvenience unless the request is granted" because without the Department's Technical Statement or Position Statement, the Commission would not be fully informed prior to the prehearing conference, or the Department would not have sufficient time to review this matter. In the opinion of the Department, the enlargement of time would not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party. *See id.*

Early this afternoon, the Department has sought consent of the other parties to this docket: Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern) and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA). By and through counsel, Northern does not object to the relief requested. As of this filing, the position of Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) is unknown.

Consistent with the Commission's current practice, this letter is being filed in electronic format.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ *Mary E. Schwarzer*

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

Cc: Service List

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