

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Northern Utilities, Inc.

Docket No. DG 23-087

ASSENTED-TO MOTION TO ACCEPT LATE-FILED SETTLEMENT

Northern Utilities, Inc. (“Northern” or the “Company”) hereby moves the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. R. Puc 203.07 and Puc 203.20(f) to accept the late-filed Settlement Agreement that accompanies this motion and waive the requirements of Puc 203.20(e). The New Hampshire Department of Energy (the “Department”) and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (“OCA”) assent to the relief requested in this motion. Northern and the Department are referred to collectively in this Motion as the “Settling Parties”). In support of this motion, Northern states as follows:

1. On October 6, 2023, Northern filed its Petition requesting Commission review and approval of certain agreements with Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (“PNGTS”) and TransCanada Pipelines Limited (“TCPL”) that will provide a firm natural gas pipeline transportation path from Empress, Alberta to Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc. (“Granite”) interconnects (the full capacity path is referred to herein as “Empress Capacity.”)

2. The Commission issued an Order of Notice on October 12, 2023. The Department submitted a preliminary Position Statement on November 3, 2023. The Commission held a prehearing conference on November 9, 2023. Northern, the Department, and the OCA engaged

in written discovery and participated in technical and/or settlement conferences on November 9, 2023, November 28, 2023, December 21, 2023, January 5, 2024, and January 10, 2024. Northern and the Department engaged in additional settlement discussions on January 12, 2024 and January 16, 2024. The OCA submitted testimony on December 13, 2023, and the Department submitted a Supplemental Position Statement on December 14, 2023.

3. The Settling Parties have collaborated and worked diligently to finalize the terms of a comprehensive Settlement Agreement, which accompanies this motion. Pursuant to Puc 203.20(e), settlement agreements are to be filed no less than 5 days prior to a hearing, except as provided in 203.20(f). In accordance with the revised schedule, the Settlement Agreement was due to be filed by January 11, 2024.

5. Puc 203.20 (f) allows the Commission to accept a late-filed settlement agreement if that agreement promotes the orderly and efficient conduct of the proceeding and will not impair the rights of any party to the proceeding.

6. Northern moves that the Commission accept the late-filed Settlement Agreement pursuant to Puc 203.20(f) and waive the requirement of Puc 203.20(e). The Settlement Agreement is comprehensive and represents a full, negotiated resolution of all issues in this Docket. It is the product of many weeks of hard work by parties representing different interests, including those of the State of New Hampshire, and if accepted will represent a full, negotiated resolution of all the issues before the Commission in this docket. Therefore, a late-filed settlement agreement will allow for an orderly and efficient hearing, to the benefit of all the parties and the Commission, and will not impair the rights of any party to the proceeding.

8. As noted above, the Department and the OCA assent to the relief requested in this motion.

WHEREFORE, the Company requests that the Commission grant this Assented-to Motion to
Accept Late-Filed Settlement.

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. H. Taylor", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

By: _____

Dated: January 16, 2024

Patrick H. Taylor, Esq.
Chief Regulatory Counsel

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the date written below, I caused the attached to be served pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.11.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Taylor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Taylor

January 16, 2024