

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

DG 08-041

ORDER OF NOTICE

On March 14, 2008, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern) filed with the Commission its Cost of Gas (COG) rates for the period May 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008 (2008 Summer Season). Included in the filing were revised tariff pages and supporting materials for the changed rates.

The proposed residential COG rate is \$1.1096 per therm, a \$0.2812 per therm increase from the weighted residential COG rate of \$0.8284 per therm for last summer. The estimated impact of the proposed firm sales COG and current LDAC rate on a typical residential heating customer's summer bill is an increase of approximately \$87, or 19%, compared to last summer. The current (winter) residential COG rate is \$1.0610 per therm and comparing the November 2006 through October 2007 gas cost of \$2,109 to the November 2007 through October 2008 actual and projected gas cost of \$1,915 for a typical residential heating, there is an overall decrease in annual costs of \$194, or 9%.

The proposed commercial/industrial low winter use COG is \$1.0887 per therm and the proposed commercial/industrial high winter use COG is \$1.1667 per therm. The rate increase for the commercial/industrial customers over the comparable 2007 Summer Season and current (winter) rates is commensurate with the residential COG rate increase.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to: RSA 378 relative to the justness and reasonableness of rates, forecasting of sales, supplier prices and transportation prices, purchasing decisions related to the current and past summer supplies and capacity, cost allocations between

the New Hampshire and Maine divisions, the causes and treatment of any over and under recoveries, the reconciliation of prior period costs and revenues, what constitutes unaccounted for gas volumes and what is a reasonable level of unaccounted for gas volumes, and rate impacts. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a hearing be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on April 16, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Northern, Staff of the Commission and any intervenors hold a technical session at the Commission on April 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Northern shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than March 23, 2008, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before April 16, 2008; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Northern and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before April 11, 2008, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before April 16, 2008.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this nineteenth day of March, 2008.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

