THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DG 09-057

ORDER OF NOTICE

On March 20, 2009, New Hampshire Gas Corporation (NHGC) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) revisions to its tariff providing for its Cost of Gas (COG) rates for the period May 1, 2009 through October 31, 2009 (2009 Summer Season). Included in the filing were revised tariff pages and supporting materials for the changed rates. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission website at http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docket/2009/09-057.htm.

The proposed COG rate is \$1.0701 per therm, a \$1.1847 per therm decrease from the weighted residential COG rate of \$2.2548 per therm for last summer. The estimated impact of the proposed COG rate and elimination of the deferred revenue surcharge on a typical residential heating customer's summer gas costs will be a decrease of \$208, or 36% compared to last summer.

The filing raises, <u>inter alia</u>, issues related to: RSA 378 and the justness and reasonableness of rates, fares, and charges; the reasonableness of sales forecasts, supplier prices, and transportation prices; reconciliation of prior period costs and revenues; the causes and treatment of a prior period over recovery; and rate impacts resulting from the proposed rate changes.

An additional issue in this docket held over from a prior docket (DG 08-117, NHGC's 2008/2009 Winter COG) includes the question of whether the mechanism that allows

monthly changes in the COG rate without further Commission action should be modified to allow greater flexibility. 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 21, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, NHGC shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than March 30, 2009, 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 21, 2009; 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 NHGC and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before April 16, 2009, 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 21, 2009.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-fourth day of March, 2009.

Debra A. Howland Executive Director

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.

