

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

July 22, 2009

Susan S. Geiger
Orr & Reno, P.A.
P.O. Box 3550
Concord, NH 03302-3550

Re: DG 09-073, Northern Utilities, Inc.
Petition for Waiver of N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 505.07

Dear Ms. Geiger:

On April 14, 2009, you filed on behalf of Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern) a request for a temporary waiver of N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 505.07 which requires each utility to maintain facilities and equipment necessary for accurately testing all types and sizes of meters employed for the measurement of gas to its customers. You state that when Unitil acquired Northern it did not acquire any of the meter testing equipment and facilities that had been previously used by Northern to meet its meter testing obligations. To meet its meter testing obligations as it transitions from the NiSource organization to the Unitil organization, Northern proposes to contract with Austin International, Inc. and IMAC Systems, Inc. for testing for a period of 12 months. Your letter further states that during this 12 month period, Unitil and Northern will analyze and decide whether it would be more cost-effective to pursue purchasing meter testing equipment and facilities. Finally, Northern proposes to meet its obligation under N.H. Admin. Rule 505.05 (a) (5) to perform meter testing in the presence of the customer or the customer's agent in Fitchburg, Massachusetts which should reduce the travel time for those customers seeking to observe the meter testing.

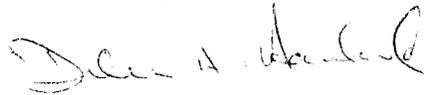
On July 10, 2009, Staff filed a memo noting that it did not object to the temporary waiver inasmuch as it did not see any potential "degradation in safety levels nor harm to customers wanting to witness any tests."

Under N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 201.05, the Commission may waive N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 505.07 if it finds the waiver serves the public interest and the waiver does not disrupt the orderly and efficient resolution of matters before the Commission. Determination of the public interest requires consideration of whether: (1) compliance with the rule would

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be onerous given the circumstances of Northern; or (2) the purpose of the rule is satisfied by the alternative method proposed. The Commission has determined that the applicable standards for a waiver are satisfied. Accordingly, the temporary waiver described above is granted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debra A. Howland".

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director