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October 19, 2009

Via Electronic Mail and Hand Delivery

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301

> Re: Petition for Approval of Second Amendment to Special Contract with National Gypsum Company

Dear Ms. Howland:

On behalf of Northern Utilities, Inc. enclosed for filing and docketing please find an original and 7 copies of a Petition for Approval of Second Amendment to Special Contract With National Gypsum Company. The purpose of this Second Amendment is to extend Northern's existing special contract with National Gypsum for two years. Submitted in support of the Petition are the Prefiled Testimony of Michael Smith and accompanying schedules (NU-1-1 through NU-1-8)(redacted versions).

Also enclosed is an original and 7 copies of a Motion for Protective Order and Confidential Treatment seeking protection for the unredacted versions of the following documents which have been marked "Confidential" and are submitted herewith: Prefiled Testimony of Michael Smith; Schedules NU-1-1, NU-1-2, NU-1-5, NU-1-6, NU-1-7 and NU-1-8.

Because the original Special Contract will expire on November 30, 200, Northern requests approval of the Second Amendment to Special Contract prior to that date. Northern appreciates the short time frame for review and approval of this filing and is prepared to provide any additional information that is necessary to enable the Commission and its Staff to complete their review as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this filing. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Susan S. Geiger

cc: Meredith A. Hatfield, Esq. 604403_1.DOC

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