THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DG 11-212

NEW HAMPSHIRE GAS CORPORATION

2011-2012 Winter Period Cost of Gas Adjustment

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 20, 2011, New Hampshire Gas Corporation (NHGC), a public utility providing propane air service to approximately 1,110 customers in Keene, New Hampshire, filed revisions to its tariff providing for its cost of gas (COG) rates for the winter period, November 1, 2011, through April 30, 2012. The proposed COG rate is \$2.2157 per therm, a \$0.4180 per therm increase from the weighted average COG rate of \$1.7977 per therm for last winter. NHGC also proposed a \$2.2357 per therm rate for its fixed price option program (FPO) (a \$0.0200 per therm premium over the non-FPO rate); due to propane supply disruptions, an FPO was not offered to NHGC customers last winter, and NHGC proposes to restart this program for this winter heating season, if current propane supply disruptions at the Selkirk, New York transfer terminal are resolved in time. Order No. 25,039 (October 30, 2009) approved an increase in NHGC delivery rates to be phased in over three years. On November 1, 2011, the start of year three, the delivery rate will increase approximately five percent. The increase in the delivery rate and the proposed increase in the COG rate are expected to increase a typical residential heating customer's winter bill by approximately 16 percent. In addition, NHGC has requested a waiver from New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Puc 1203.05, in order to implement the rate change on a bills-rendered basis. 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's website at http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docket/2011/11-045.htm.

The filing raises, <u>inter alia</u>, issues related to the reasonableness of rates and charges pursuant to RSA 378, including forecasting of sales, supplier prices and transportation prices, operational issues and reconciliation of prior period costs and revenues. 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 on NHGC's 2011-2012 winter COG filing be held before the Commission located at 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 20, 2011, 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 October 3, 2011, 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 October 20, 2011; 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 October 17, 2011, 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 October 20, 2011.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-third day of September, 2011.

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.