

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

DG 11-290

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

Integrated Resource Plan

ORDER OF NOTICE

On December 30, 2011, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern) filed an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for its Maine and New Hampshire divisions. The IRP covers the period 2011/12 through 2015/16, and provides details of Northern's resource planning process based on its current forecast of requirements and present market conditions. Northern operates a single gas supply portfolio that extends over parts of Maine and New Hampshire, making its IRP process subject to the jurisdiction of both the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) and the Commission. Northern states that it filed an identical version of the IRP simultaneously with the MPUC for its evaluation.

Northern's filing provides details of its' planning processes in four areas: (1) the demand forecast provides the process and results of the firm planning load requirement over the five-year planning horizon under normal weather conditions; (2) the planning standards and design forecasts provide Northern's analysis and results for the determination of design weather scenarios and presents the design year and design day planning load requirements; (3) the demand side management section provides a review of the programs available to customers and describes how demand-side resources are modeled for forecasting and supply planning purposes; and (4) the resource portfolio assessment provides a review of the Company's current resource

portfolio and an overview of Northern's resource contracting decision process, as well as the results of the resource optimization analysis.

Northern's filing raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 374:4 and the Commission's duty to keep informed as to the adequacy of Northern's planning process, including demand forecasts, gas supply and demand resource assessments, and the integration of supply and demand resources; and RSA 378:37 and *Northern Utilities, Inc.*, Order No. 20,707, 77 NH PUC 803 (1992) relating to evaluation of integrated least-cost resource plans and the potential environmental economic and health-related impacts of proposed options. This filing 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 web site at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2011/11-290.html>.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on March 22, 2012 at 1:30 p.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Northern, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow Northern to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

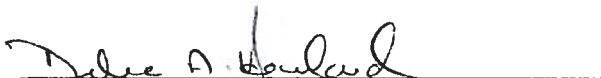
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Northern shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than March 1, 2012, in a newspaper with general circulation in those

portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before March 22, 2012; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code 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 March 19, 2012, 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. Code 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 March 22, 2012.

Issued by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission this twenty-second day of February, 2012.


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.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:
- DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST. SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.