

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

DG 12-001

ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS, INC. d/b/a NATIONAL GRID NH

Investigation into Excess Capacity

ORDER OF NOTICE

On January 11, 2012, the Commission issued Order No. 25,317 approving the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) filed by EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. d/b/a National Grid NH (EnergyNorth) in Docket No. DG 10-041 but directing EnergyNorth to make certain improvements to its next IRP. The Commission also stated that it would open a separate proceeding to investigate EnergyNorth's projected supply/demand balance and whether it is prudent for EnergyNorth to plan to retain more gas supply capacity than it needs to meet forecasted design-day peak demands or whether EnergyNorth ought to take actions to reduce the excess. Order No. 25,317 was clarified by Order No. 25,329 (February 3, 2012).

The investigation will address the extent of the excess capacity, the advantages and disadvantages of reducing or eliminating such excess including potential customer cost savings, and the alternatives for achieving the capacity reductions. EnergyNorth's calculation of the excess shall be based on the design-day planning standard approved in Docket No. DG 10-041 and on the most recently completed design-day peak demand forecast appropriately adjusted for projected demand-side management programs. In addition, EnergyNorth shall explain and support the role of the Granite Ridge peaking contract in meeting peak-day demands.

Filings in this docket, 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/Docketbk/2012/12-001.html>.

This docket raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 374:1 and the provision of adequate utility service; RSA 374:4 and the Commission's duty to keep informed as to the adequacy of EnergyNorth's planning process; RSA 378:7 and the just and reasonableness of customer rates related to said service; and RSA 365:8, XII and the Commission's rule, PART Puc 506 related to adequate onsite supplemental gas facilities. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that EnergyNorth file its prefiled testimony regarding the extent of excess capacity, the prudence of retaining excess capacity or whether actions should be taken to reduce excess capacity, and the role of the Granite Ridge peaking contract in meeting peak day demand no later than April 13, 2012; and it is

FURTHER 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 April 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to this docket and the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

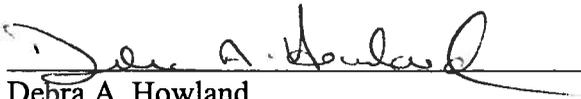
FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, EnergyNorth, the Staff of the Commission, and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to develop a proposed procedural schedule to govern the remainder of the proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, EnergyNorth shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than March 16, 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 April 26, 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 EnergyNorth and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before April 23, 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 April 26, 2012.

Issued by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission on 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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Docket #: 12-001-1 Printed: February 22, 2012

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.**