

ORIGINAL

N.H.P.U.C. Case No. DE 12-131

Exhibit No. #2

Witness G. Simmons C. Łahl

Diggins

DO NOT REWOVE FROM FILE

October 15, 2012

BY OVERNIGHT MAIL AND E-MAIL

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: DE 12-131 Northern Utilities, Inc.

Filing of Settlement Agreement among Parties

Dear Director Howland:

Attached for filing in Docket No. DE 12-131 is a Settlement Agreement signed by Northern Utilities, Inc., the Office of the Consumer Advocate, and Commission Staff. The Parties request that the Commission accept the attached Agreement pursuant to Puc 203.20.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary Epler(

Attorney for Northern Utilities, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Alexander Speidel, Counsel for Commission Staff

Rorie Hollenberg, Counsel for OCA

Gary Epler Chief Regulatory Counsel

6 Liberty Lane West Hampton, NH 03842-1720

Phone: 603-773-6440 Fax: 603-773-6640 Email: epler@unitil.com MPUC OCTIG12 anions

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC. Investigation into Maine-New Hampshire Interstate Cost Allocation Matters Docket No. DG 12-131

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement ("Settlement Agreement") is entered into this 12th day of October, 2012, by and among Northern Utilities, Inc. ("Northern," or "the Company"), the Office of Consumer Advocate ("OCA") and the Staff of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission ("Staff") (collectively, the "Settling Parties"), and is intended to resolve all outstanding issues in the above-captioned docket.

1. <u>Procedural History</u>

- 1.1. On May 16, 2012, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") opened this docket to investigate the impact on New Hampshire ratepayers, if any, as a result of the disclosure by Northern, in its initial filing in Docket No. DG 11-068, of the discovery of an inconsistency in the allocation of its gas supply resource costs between Northern's New Hampshire and Maine divisions. Because of the potentially large sums of New Hampshire customer monies involved, in Order No. 25,354 entered in Docket No. DG 12-068, the Commission accepted Staff's recommendation for a new investigative docket through which Staff could develop recommendations for further reconciliations and revisions, as appropriate.
- 1.2. The OCA filed a letter of intent to participate in the docket on May 24, 2012.
- 1.3. A Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, was held before the Commission on May 30, 2012.
- 1.4. During the Prehearing Conference, the Company stated that it had conferred with Staff and the OCA and agreed to file a report by June 22, 2012 with background and other information regarding the cost allocation issue.
- 1.5. On June 11, 2012, the Company requested an extension of time until July 20, 2012, to file the report. On July 7, 2012, a Secretarial Letter was issued granting the extension.
- 1.6. On July 20, 2012, the Company filed its "Report Concerning the Allocation of Gas Supply Resources Between Northern's Maine and New Hampshire Divisions and the Calculation of the Monthly Gas Supply Commodity Cost Allocator." Under separate cover, the Company also filed its responses to the Staff's first set of data requests.

1.7. A technical session was held at the Commission on August 14, 2012. Subsequent to the technical session, the parties engaged in informal settlement discussions, which ultimately led to this Settlement Agreement. As part of these discussions, the Company responded to a second and third set of data requests from the Staff, and one set of data requests from the OCA. No person or party other than the signatories below participated in these settlement discussions.

2. Rate Adjustments

- 2.1. In the interest of resolving all outstanding issues in this docket, the Settling Parties agree to the following rate adjustments.
- 2.2. Northern will refund to customers the amount of \$4,130,679 over a period of one year beginning November 1, 2012. See Schedule 1, Page 2 of 2, line 88, column (D), attached hereto as "Settlement Agreement Attachment 1."
- 2.3. In order to accomplish the refund, Northern has revised its 2011-2012 Winter Period Reconciliation (Docket No. DG 11-207) in the cost of gas proceeding, docketed as DG 12-273, to reflect an adjustment of -\$4,101,779. See Schedule 1, Page 1 of 2, line 28, column (D), Settlement Agreement Attachment 1. In its revised Reconciliation filing, Northern has adjusted its opening balances (May 2011) for commodity, working capital, and bad debt and calculated its proposed cost of gas rates effective November 1, 2012 accordingly.
- 2.4. Northern will adjust its opening balances (November 2011) to reflect a total adjustment of -\$28,900 for commodity, working capital, and bad debt for the 2012 Summer Period Reconciliation which will be reflected in cost of gas rates effective May 1, 2013. See Schedule 1, Page 1 of 2, line 47, column (D), Settlement Agreement Attachment 1. Northern has charged \$9,623 through its 2010-2011 Summer Period Reconciliation (Docket No. DG 12-068). The net refund amounts to \$19,277. See Schedule 1, Page 1 of 2, line 57, column (D), Settlement Agreement Attachment 1.
- 2.5. The Parties agree to work together to develop additional filing detail to be included in Northern's Form III Schedule 4 of the COG Reconciliation which will demonstrate Northern's total monthly Commodity and Demand Costs as well as the amounts assigned to the Maine and New Hampshire Divisions. This detail shall be included beginning with the Company's next COG Reconciliation filing. The Parties will also collaborate to integrate other improvements into the Northern COG Reconciliation, as part of the ongoing Reconciliation review process, with a goal of providing more detail to the Parties.

3. General Provisions

- 3.1. This Settlement Agreement is expressly conditioned upon the Commission's acceptance of all its provisions, without change or condition. If the Commission does not accept this Settlement Agreement in its entirety, without change or condition, or if the Commission makes any findings that go beyond the scope of this Settlement Agreement, and any of the Settling Parties is unable to agree with the changes, conditions or findings, this Settlement Agreement shall be deemed to be withdrawn and shall not constitute any part of the record in this proceeding and shall not be used for any other purpose.
- 3.2. Under this Settlement Agreement, the Settling Parties agree to this joint submission to the Commission, which represents a compromise and resolution of all issues in this proceeding.
- 3.3. The Settling Parties agree that the Commission's acceptance of this Settlement Agreement does not constitute continuing approval of, or precedent for, any particular issue in this proceeding. Acceptance of this Settlement Agreement by the Commission shall not be deemed to constrain the Commission's exercise of its authority to promulgate future orders, regulations or rules that resolve similar matters affecting other parties in a different fashion.
- 3.4. This Settlement Agreement shall not be deemed an admission by any of the Settling Parties that any allegation or contention in this proceeding by any other party, other than those specifically agreed to herein, is true and valid. This Settlement Agreement shall not be construed to represent any concession by any Settling Party hereto regarding positions taken with respect to the issues in this docket, nor shall this Settlement Agreement be deemed to foreclose any Settling Party in the future from taking any position in any subsequent proceedings.
- 3.5. The Settling Parties agree that all pre-filed testimony and supporting documentation should be admitted as full exhibits for the purpose of consideration of this Settlement Agreement, and be given whatever weight the Commission deems appropriate. Consent by the Settling Parties to admit all pre-filed testimony without challenge does not constitute agreement by any of the Settling Parties that the content of the pre-filed testimony is accurate or that the views of the witnesses should be assigned any particular weight by the Commission. In addition, the resolution of any specific issue in this Settlement Agreement does not indicate the Settling Parties' agreement to such resolution for purposes of any future proceedings, except to the extent specifically agreed to.
- 3.6. The rights conferred and the obligations imposed on the Settling Parties by this Settlement Agreement shall be binding on or inure to the benefit of any successors in interest or assignees as if such successor or assignee was itself a signatory party. The Settling Parties agree to cooperate in advocating that this Settlement Agreement be approved by the Commission in its entirety and without modification.
- 3.7. This Settlement Agreement is the product of confidential settlement negotiations. The content of these negotiations, including any documents prepared during such negotiations for the

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purpose of reaching a settlement, shall be privileged and all offers of settlement shall be without prejudice to the position of any party presenting such offer.

3.8. This Settlement Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute one agreement.

Conclusion

The Parties affirm that the proposed Settlement Agreement is just and reasonable and should be approved.

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

Alexander Speidel, Staff Attorney

OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

Gary Epler, Chief Regulatory Counsel, Unitil Service Corp.

Attorney for Northern Utilities, Inc.

Northern Utilities, Inc.
Summary of Variable Commodity Allocation Adjustments related to Company Managed Gas and LAUF

			Ne					Maine				
Line #	Description	_	As Filed	Updated		Change	_	As Filed		Updated	Change	Reference for Updated Amounts
	(A)		(B)	(C)		(D)		(E)		(F)	(G)	(H)
1	Peak - May 2008- Apr 2009:		20.054.050	20.020.000		(000.050)		24 725 722		22 552 502	4 000 050	
2	Commodity Costs	\$	28,851,058 \$			(822,050)	\$		\$	22,558,583	\$ 822,050	Sch 2, pps.5, 13 and Sch 5, pps.6, 20
3	Demand Costs	\$	11,159,762 \$			- (7.440)	\$		\$	11,019,798	\$ -	Sch 2, pps.6, 14 and Sch 5, pps.7, 21
4	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	59,253 \$			(7,449)	\$	64,728		74,030	\$ 9,302	Sch 2, pps.3, 11 and Sch 5, pps.4, 18
5	Working Capital	\$	27,190 \$			(476)	\$	144,455		148,081		Sch 2, pps.7, 15 and Sch 5, pps.11, 25
6	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	118 \$			(5)	\$	632		673		Sch 2, pps.7, 15 and Sch 5, pps.11, 25
7	Bad Debt	\$	180,171 \$			(3,701)	\$	348,748		357,500	\$ 8,752	Sch 2, pps.8, 16 and Sch 5, pps.12, 26
8	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	1,251 \$			(33)	\$		\$	1,645	\$ 99	Sch 2, pps.8, 16 and Sch 5, pps.12, 26
9	Totals - Peak Period - 2008/2009	\$	40,278,803 \$	39,445,089	\$	(833,714)	\$	33,316,440	\$	34,160,310	\$ 843,870	
10	Peak - May 2009- Apr 2010:											
11	Commodity Costs	\$	16,507,551 \$	15.281.412	Ś	(1,226,139)	\$	12,405,739	\$	13.631.878	\$ 1,226,139	Sch 3, pps.5, 16 and Sch 6, pps.6, 20
12	Demand Costs	Ś	10,650,190 \$			-	\$	10,921,727			\$ -	Sch 3, pps.6, 17 and Sch 6, pps.8, 22
13	Interest on Over/Under Balance	Ś	110,619 \$			(37,020)	\$	(18,711)		7,414		Sch 3, pps.3, 14 and Sch 6, p.4, 18
14	Working Capital	Ś	15,317 \$			(692)	\$	102,874		108,281		Sch 3, pps.8, 19 and Sch 6, pps.11, 25
15	Interest on Over/Under Balance	Ś	(1,366) \$			(23)	\$	196		311		Sch 3, pps.8, 19 and Sch 6, pps.11, 25
16	Bad Debt	Ś	122,279 \$			(5,521)	\$	248,362		261,416	•	Sch 3, pps.9, 20 and Sch 6, pps.12, 26
17	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	1,338 \$			(170)	\$	384	\$	662	\$ 278	Sch 3, pps.9, 20 and Sch 6, pps.12, 26
18	Totals - Peak Period - 2009/2010	\$	27,405,928 \$			(1,269,565)	\$	23,660,571		24,931,689	\$ 1,271,118	3611 3, pp3.3, 20 and 3611 0, pp3.12, 20
10	70tais 7 tak 7 tiloa 2003/2010	Y	27,403,320 \$	20,130,303	Y	(1,203,303)	Y	23,000,371	Y	24,551,005	Ų 1,271,110	
19	Peak - May 2010- Apr 2011:											
20	Commodity Costs	\$	16,690,300 \$	14,784,852	\$	(1,905,447)	\$	10,305,839	\$	12,211,286	\$ 1,905,447	Sch 4, pps.5, 16 and Sch 7, pps.6, 20
21	Demand Costs	Ś	14,353,569 \$			-	\$		\$		\$ -	Sch 4, pps.6, 17 and Sch 7, pps.8, 22
22	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	138,949 \$			(82,973)	\$	17,918			\$ 57,562	Sch 4, pps.3, 14 and Sch 7, pps.4, 18
23	Working Capital	Ś	17,509 \$			(1,075)	\$	108,122			\$ 8,403	Sch 4, pps.8, 19 and Sch 7, pps.11, 25
24	Interest on Over/Under Balance	Ś	(2,285) \$			(49)	\$	188		441		Sch 4, pps.8, 19 and Sch 7, pps.11, 25
25	Bad Debt	Ś	139,776 \$. , ,		(8,579)	\$	261,030			\$ 20,287	Sch 4, pps.9, 20 and Sch 7, pps.12, 26
26	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	278 \$			(377)	\$	351		963	\$ 612	Sch 4, pps.9, 20 and Sch 7, pps.12, 26
27	Totals - Peak Period - 2010/2011	\$	31,338,096 \$			(1,998,500)	\$		\$	26,897,549	\$ 1,992,564	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	·	·			·	., , ,		, ,				
28	Totals - All peak periods	\$	99,022,827 \$	94,921,047	\$	(4,101,779)	\$	81,881,996	\$	85,989,548	\$ 4,107,552	
29	<u>Off Peak - Nov 2008- Oct 2009:</u>											
30	Commodity Costs	\$	3,977,459 \$			3,022	\$	3,595,126		3,592,104		Sch 8, pps.5, 16 and Sch 11, pps.6, 18
31	Demand Costs	\$	1,468,086 \$			-	\$	1,285,602			\$ -	Sch 8, pps.6, 17 and Sch 11, pps.7, 19
32	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	12,420 \$			18	\$	6,350		,	\$ (11)	Sch 8, pps.3, 14 and Sch 11, pps.4, 16
33	Working Capital	\$	3,070 \$			1	\$	21,524		21,511		Sch 8, pps.8, 19 and Sch 11, pps.9, 21
34	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	79 \$			-	\$	(13)		(13)		Sch 8, pps.8, 19 and Sch 11, pps.9, 21
35	Bad Debt	\$	24,519 \$			13	\$	51,964		51,932		Sch 8, pps.9, 20 and Sch 11, pps.10, 22
36	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	306 \$				\$	(21)		(21)		Sch 8, pps.9, 20 and Sch 11, pps.10, 22
37	Totals - Off-Peak Period - 2008/2009	\$	5,485,939 \$	5,488,993	\$	3,054	\$	4,960,532	\$	4,957,454	\$ (3,078)	
	000 1 11 2000 - 1											
38	Off Peak - Nov 2009- Oct 2010:											
39	Commodity Costs	\$	3,895,166 \$			(31,426)	\$	3,377,317		3,408,742		Sch 9, pps.5, 16 and Sch 12, pps.6, 18
40	Demand Costs	\$	1,086,474 \$			-	\$		\$		\$ 0	Sch 9, pps.6, 17 and Sch 12, pps.7, 19
41	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	(5,937) \$		- 1	(367)	\$	3,010		3,272		Sch 9, pps.3, 14 and Sch 12, pps.4, 16
42	Working Capital	\$	2,810 \$			(18)	\$	19,395		19,533		Sch 9, pps.8, 19 and Sch 12, pps.9, 21
43	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	(261) \$			-	\$	20		22		Sch 9, pps.8, 19 and Sch 12, pps.9, 21
44	Bad Debt	\$	22,430 \$			(141)	\$	46,823		47,158		Sch 9, pps.9, 20 and Sch 12, pps.10, 22
45	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	(73) \$			(2)	\$	22		25		Sch 9, pps.9, 20 and Sch 12, pps.10, 22
46	Totals - Off-Peak Period - 2009/2010	\$	5,000,609 \$	4,968,655	Ş	(31,954)	\$	4,467,186	\$	4,499,352	\$ 32,166	
47	Subtotal	\$	10,486,548 \$	10,457,648	ė	(28,900)	ė	9,427,718	ė	9,456,806	\$ 29,088	
47	Subtotal	ş	10,460,546	10,437,048	Ģ	(28,900)	\$	9,427,710	Ą	3,430,600	3 23,000	
48	Off Peak - Nov 2010- Oct 2011:	Note :	The following correc	tion has already be	opn -	done in Nov10 M	1V11 £	ilina as \$10 20E ~	harr	ie due to troatmo	nt of Hedging	
												Sch 10, pps.5, 16 and Sch 13, pps.6, 18
49	Commodity Costs Demand Costs	\$	2,964,431 \$ 1,253,424 \$			10,413	\$	2,664,627		2,654,215		
50		\$				(020)	\$	1,267,915		1,267,915		Sch 10, pps.6, 17 and Sch 13, pps.7, 19
51	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	(8,994) \$			(838)	\$	(3,763)		(3,196)		Sch 10, pps.3, 14 and Sch 13, pps.4, 16
52	Working Capital	\$	2,379 \$			6	\$	17,343		17,297		Sch 10, pps.8, 19 and Sch 13, pps.9, 21
53	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	(196) \$, ,		(1)	\$	10		12		Sch 10, pps.8, 19 and Sch 13, pps.9, 21
54	Bad Debt	\$	18,991 \$			47	\$	41,869		41,758		Sch 10, pps.9, 20 and Sch 13, pps.10, 22
55 56	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	37 \$			0.633	\$	34		3.079.040	\$ 6	Sch 10, pps.9, 20 and Sch 13, pps.10, 22
56	Totals - Off-Peak Period - 2010/2011	\$	4,230,072 \$	4,239,695	\$	9,623	\$	3,988,035	Þ	3,978,040	\$ (9,995)	
57	Totals - All Off-Peak periods	¢	14,716,620 \$	14.697 3/12	¢	(19,277)	¢	13,415,753	Ś	13.434 846	\$ 19,094	
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Northern Utilities, Inc.

Summary of Variable Commodity Allocation Adjustments related to Company Managed Gas and LAUF (cont.)

				w Hampshire					Maine						
	Description		As Filed		<u> </u>		Change	As Filed		Updated		Change		Reference	
	(A)		(B)		(C)		(D)		(E)		(F)		(G)	(H)	
58	Summaries by Season 1:														
59	Peak - All periods:														
60	Commodity Costs	\$	62,048,909	\$	58,095,272	\$	(3,953,636)	\$	44,448,111	\$	48,401,747	\$	3,953,636	L.2 + L.11 + L.20	
61	Demand Costs	\$	36,163,521	\$	36,163,521	\$	-	\$	36,153,063	\$	36,153,063	\$	-	L.3 + L.12 + L.21	
62	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	308,821	\$	181,379	\$	(127,442)	\$	63,935	\$	156,924	\$	92,989	L.4 + L.13 + L.22	
63	Working Capital	\$	60,016	\$	57,773	\$	(2,243)	\$	355,451	\$	372,887	\$	17,436	L.5 + L.14 + L.23	
64	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	(3,533)	\$	(3,610)	\$	(77)	\$	1,016	\$	1,425	\$	409	L.6 + L.15 + L.24	
65	Bad Debt	\$	442,226	\$	424,425	\$	(17,801)	\$	858,140	\$	900,233	\$	42,093	L.7 + L.16 + L.25	
66	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	2,867	\$	2,287	\$	(580)	\$	2,281	\$	3,270	\$	989	L.8 + L.17 + L.26	
67	Totals - Peak Period - All Periods	\$	99,022,827	\$	94,921,047	\$	(4,101,779)	\$	81,881,996	\$	85,989,548	\$	4,107,552		
68	Off-Peak - All periods:														
69	Commodity Costs	\$	10,837,056	\$	10,819,064	\$	(17,991)	\$	9,637,070	\$	9,655,061	\$	17,991	L.30 + L.39 + L.49	
70	Demand Costs	\$	3,807,984	\$	3,807,984	\$	0	\$	3,574,116	\$	3,574,116	\$	0	L.31 + L.40 + L.50	
71	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	(2,511)		(3,698)		(1,187)	\$	5,597		6,415		818	L.32 + L.41 + L.51	
72	Working Capital	Ś	8,259		8,248		(11)	\$	58,262		58,341		79	L.33 + L.42 + L.52	
73	Interest on Over/Under Balance	Ś	(378)		(379)		(1)	\$	17		21		4	L.34 + L.43 + L.53	
74	Bad Debt	Ś	65,940		65,859	\$	(81)	\$	140,656	•	140,848		192	L.35 + L.44 + L.54	
75	Interest on Over/Under Balance	Ś	,	\$	264	Ś	(6)	Ś	35	\$	44	- 1	9	L.36 + L.45 + L.55	
76	Totals - Off-Peak Period - All Periods	\$	14,716,620	\$	14,697,343	\$	(19,277)	\$	13,415,753	\$	13,434,846	\$	19,094		
77	Both Seasons - All periods:														
78	Commodity Costs	\$	72,885,964	\$	68,914,337	\$	(3,971,627)	\$	54,085,180	\$	58,056,807	\$	3,971,627	L.60 + L.69	
79	Demand Costs	\$	39,971,505	\$	39,971,505	\$	0	\$	39,727,179	\$	39,727,179	\$	0	L.61 + L.70	
80	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	306,310	\$	177,681	\$	(128,629)	\$	69,532	\$	163,339	\$	93,807	L.62 + L.71	
81	Working Capital	\$	68,275	\$	66,021	\$	(2,254)	\$	413,713	\$	431,228	\$	17,515	L.63 + L.72	
82	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	(3,911)	\$	(3,989)	\$	(78)	\$	1,033	\$	1,446	\$	413	L.64 + L.73	
83	Bad Debt	\$	508,166	\$	490,284	\$	(17,882)	\$	998,796	\$	1,041,081	\$	42,285	L.65 + L.74	
84	Interest on Over/Under Balance	\$	3,137	\$	2,551	\$	(586)	\$	2,316	\$	3,314	\$	998	L.66 + L.75	
85	Totals - Off-Peak Period - All Periods	\$	113,739,446	\$	109,618,390	\$	(4,121,056)	\$	95,297,749	\$	99,424,394	\$	4,126,646		
86	Subtotal - All periods	\$			109,618,390			\$	95,297,749	•	99,424,394		4,126,646	L.67 + L.76	
87	Less: Off Peak 2011 already filed	\$	4,230,072		4,239,695	\$	9,623	\$		\$	3,978,040	\$	(9,995)	L. 56	
88	Total - All periods not yet filed	\$	109,509,375	\$	105,378,695	\$	(4,130,679)	\$	91,309,714	\$	95,446,354	\$	4,136,640	L. 86 - L. 87	
89	Interest - All Reconciling Mechanisms:														
99 90	Peak	\$	308,155	ċ	180,056	ċ	(120 000)	\$	בכר דם	ċ	161,619	ċ	94,387	1 62 + 1 64 + 1 66	
90	Off Peak	\$,		,		(128,099)	\$	67,232 5,649		6,480		94,387	L.62 + L.64 + L.66	
91	OII PEdk	Ş	(2,619)	Ş	(3,813)	Ş	(1,194)	Ş	5,649	Ş	0,480	Ş	831	L.71 + L.73 + L.75	