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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



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NHPUC 1JUN17PM2:30

June 1, 2017

Via E-Mail

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
N.H. Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: DG 17-065 – Northern Utilities, Inc. (Unitil)
Excess Flow Valves
Procedural Schedule & Motion to Consolidate**

Dear Ms. Howland:

This letter is to report on an agreement to a procedural schedule reached among Staff, the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) and Northern Utilities, Inc. (Unitil). On April 12, 2017, Unitil submitted a letter outlining how it intends to recover costs in following changes in the federal regulations for the installation of excess flow valves. *See* 42 CFR 192.381 *et seq.* A copy of the petition was also provided to the OCA. The OCA filed a letter of participation on May 8, 2017. The parties conducted a pre-hearing conference on May 26, 2017 followed by a technical session. There were no intervenors present and no one appeared before the Commission to offer comment on the proceeding.

At the pre-hearing conference, Staff proffered a motion to consolidate this docket with DG 17-023. That docket relates to a petition filed by Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities seeking permission to amend its tariff to allow for recovery of its costs related to the installation of excess flow valves. Given that there are issues common to both dockets and that it would be more efficient to develop a single method of recovery for the costs associated with the installation of excess flow valves, Staff believes that both dockets should be consolidated with this docket being the primary docketed proceeding in this matter.

At the pre-hearing conference, both Unitil and OCA supported Staff's motion to consolidate. Counsel for Liberty Utilities was also present at the proceeding and stated that the company supported consolidation as well. The Commission indicated that the request should

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be included in this letter reporting on the outcome of the pre-hearing conference and technical session. Staff requests that the dockets be consolidated and that the following procedural schedule be implemented for the duration of the proceeding:

First Set of Discovery Requests	May 31, 2017
Responses to First Set of Discovery	June 12, 2017
Second Set of Discovery Requests	June 20, 2017
Response to Second Set of Discovery	June 30, 2016
Technical Session	July 14, 2016 (p.m.)
Final Hearing	July 26, 2017

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ John S. Clifford

John S. Clifford
Staff Attorney

cc: Service List (electronically)

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 #: 17-065-1 Printed: June 01, 2017

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.