



March 20, 2019

NHPUC 21MAR'19AM9:34

**BY E-FILING AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY**

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

Re: DG 17-070 - Return of Service

Dear Director Howland:

On behalf of Northern Utilities, Inc., and pursuant to the Supplemental Order of Notice issued by the Commission on March 12, 2019 in the above-referenced docket, please find enclosed a Publisher's Certificate by Rosa Gonzalez showing publication of the Order which was made in the New Hampshire Union Leader on March 18, 2019. Also enclosed, please find the tear sheet of publication.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RP", with a stylized flourish.

Ryan Peterson  
Regulatory Specialist

cc: Service List (via email)

Encl.

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Regulatory Specialist  
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# UNION LEADER CORPORATION

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## PUBLISHER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF New Hampshire} ss:  
COUNTY OF Hillsborough}

Personally appeared before the undersigned, a notary public within and for said county and State, ROSA GONZALEZ publisher representative of the **New Hampshire Union Leader**, a newspaper published at Hillsborough County, State of New Hampshire who, being duly sworn, state on oath that the advertisement of:

DG 17-070 Ad # 3524

UNITIL SERVICE CORP  
(Name of Institution)

a true copy of which is hereto annexed, was published in said newspaper on the following dates:  
03/18/2019, , ,

Rosa Gonzalez  
**Publisher Representative**

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day **03/18/2019**

Benjamin J. Kepple  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 02/07/2023

(Seal)



## Legal Notice

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES  
COMMISSION  
DG 17-070  
Northern Utilities, Inc.  
Distribution Rate Case  
Step Adjustment  
SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER OF  
NOTICE FOR STEP  
ADJUSTMENT**

On February 28, 2019, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern or the Company) filed a distribution rate case step adjustment for effect May 1, 2019. The filing was made pursuant to a settlement agreement approved in Northern's most recent distribution rate case. See Order No. 26,129 (May 2, 2018).

The settlement agreement provided that this 2019 step increase would be based on the investments in Eligible Facilities (as defined in the settlement agreement) in 2018, up to a revenue increase of \$2,215,273. The Company's request is for \$1,431,349, based on gross plant investments in Eligible Facilities in 2018 of \$10,031,783. By implementing this step adjustment, under the terms of the settlement agreement, Northern's next general base distribution rate increase must be based on a test year of no earlier than 2020.

The proposed step adjustment would increase the monthly bill of a residential heating customer using 71 therms per month in the winter about \$2.80 per month, or about 2.1 percent, in winter months. In summer months, a residential heating customer using 14 therms per month would experience an increase of about \$1.20 per month, or about 3.4 percent.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at [www.puc.state.nh.us/Regulatory/Docketbk/2017/17-070.html](http://www.puc.state.nh.us/Regulatory/Docketbk/2017/17-070.html).

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether the step adjustment is in conformity with the settlement agreement, is appropriately calculated, and results in just and reasonable rates pursuant to RSA 378:5 and 378:7, and whether the proposed rates will yield a just and reasonable rate of return on the prudent cost of plant, equipment, and capital improvements used and useful in Northern's provision of service to the public, as required by RSA 378:28. 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 a Hearing, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on April 9, 2019 at 2:00 pm, 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 19, 2019, 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 4, 2019; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, 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 April 2, 2019, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17. Parties to the earlier phase of Docket No. DG 17-070 continue to be parties and do not need to petition to intervene for this phase; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before April 9, 2019.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twelfth day of March, 2019.

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, NH PUC, 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.*

(UL - Mar. 18)