

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

DG 17-104

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

Petition to Change Delivery Service Terms and Conditions

PETITION TO INTERVENE

NOW COMES Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC (hereinafter “Direct Energy”), and, pursuant to RSA 541-A:32 and N.H. Admin. R. Puc 203.17, respectfully petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for intervention as a full party in the above-captioned proceeding. In support of this petition, Direct Energy states as follows:

1. On June 20, 2017, Northern Utilities, Inc. (“Northern” or the “Company”) filed with the Commission a Petition to Change Delivery Service Terms and Conditions seeking approval to change the capacity assignment provisions, and certain related provisions, of the Delivery Service Terms and Conditions, Part VII of the Company’s tariff. The Petition states that the terms and conditions of the tariff which it is seeking to change “set forth the terms under which customers may purchase their gas supply from retail suppliers.” Petition, ¶¶ 2. The Petition goes on to say that these terms govern “the process of capacity assignment” and “the allocation of capacity held by the Company to third-party Suppliers servicing the Company’s customers.” Id.

2. On July 13, 2017 the Commission issued Order No. 26,041 suspending the proposed tariffs pending further investigation and further order of the Commission. In that Order the Commission noted that the filing raises issues related to whether the proposed tariff changes and the charges associated with the tariff changes are just and reasonable under RSA

378 and RSA 374:2. That Order also established an intervention date of August 14, 2017 and set a prehearing conference for August 16, 2017.

3. Direct Energy is registered as a Competitive Natural Gas Supplier in the state of New Hampshire and currently serves small and large commercial as well as industrial natural gas customers in the state of New Hampshire. Direct Energy is a subsidiary of Centrica plc (formerly known as British Gas), a diversified, global energy leader based in the United Kingdom and operating in seven countries with over 36,000 employees worldwide. Direct Energy is one of North America's largest retail providers of electricity, natural gas, and home and business energy-related services with over five million customer relationships. Its subsidiaries and/or affiliates operate in all 50 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia and four (4) provinces in Canada.

4. By this Petition, Direct Energy is seeking full intervention in the instant proceeding. The statutory standards for intervention, set forth in RSA 541-A:32, I and II, provide that a petition for intervention *must* be granted if the petitioner states facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding (or the petitioner qualifies under any provision of law) and the interests of justice and orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings would not be impaired by allowing intervention. *See* RSA 541-A:32, I(b) and (c). In addition, the Commission has the authority to grant a petition to intervene "at any time, upon determining that such intervention would be in the interests of justice and would not impair the orderly conduct of the proceedings." RSA 541-A:32, II. *See also* N.H. Admin. R. Puc 203.17 (requiring the Commission to grant one or more petitions to intervene in accordance with the standards of RSA 541-A:32).

5. Being a Competitive Natural Gas Supplier registered with the Commission serving natural gas end-use customers in the state, Direct Energy qualifies for intervention under the mandatory provisions of RSA 541-A: 32,I because its substantial interests will be affected by the proceeding. The Commission's decision on the proposed tariff terms and conditions will have a direct effect on Direct Energy's business and its existing and future customers.

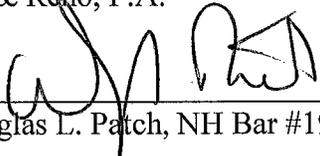
6. Direct Energy also qualifies for intervention under the discretionary standard articulated in RSA 541-A:32, II. The interests of justice and orderly conduct of the proceedings would be promoted by granting Direct Energy intervention. As an affiliate of one of the largest competitive retail and wholesale providers of natural gas in North America, Direct Energy has extensive knowledge and expertise regarding natural gas and the proposed tariff issues to be addressed in this docket. Ultimately, the Commission will benefit from Direct Energy's participation and discourse in this docket.

7. Direct Energy's intervention will not impair the orderly conduct of this proceeding. If allowed to intervene, Direct Energy will abide by the Commission's rules and the procedural schedule in this docket.

WHEREFORE, Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC respectfully requests that the Commission grant it full party status as an intervenor in this proceeding and that it grants such other relief as the Commission deems just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC
By Its Attorneys
Orr & Reno, P.A.



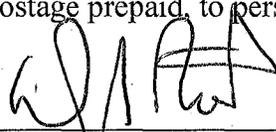
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Dated: August 4, 2017

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Petition has on this 4th day of August, 2017 been either sent by electronic or first class mail, postage prepaid, to persons listed on the Service List.



Douglas L. Patch

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