

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 22-020

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

Petition for Approval of Step Adjustment

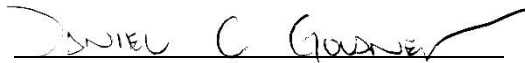
**Procedural Order Re: Motion for Waiver and/or Determination of
Substantial Compliance with Notice Requirements**

The Commission issued an order of notice on July 28, 2022, which scheduled an August 25, 2022, hearing on Northern Utilities, Inc.'s (Northern or the Company) petition for approval of step adjustment. The order of notice required Northern to post a copy of it on the Company's website no later than August 1, 2022. According to Northern's affidavit of publication, however, Northern did not publish the order of notice on its website until August 9, 2022.

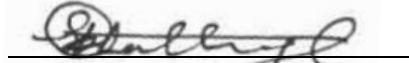
On August 9, 2022, Northern filed a motion asking that the Commission waive the August 1 publication requirement and/or determine that Northern had substantially complied with the notice requirement. In its motion, Northern noted that the only parties participating in the above-captioned docket, and the only parties who participated in the underlying docket, Docket No. DG 21-104, are the New Hampshire Department of Energy and the Office of the Consumer Advocate, both of which were sent a copy of the order of notice when the Commission issued it on July 28. The order of notice was also published on the Commission's website around that time. Northern asserted that, due to an internal oversight, the order of notice was not published on the Company's website until August 9, but publication occurred more than two weeks prior to the August 25 hearing and before the expiration of any substantive deadlines relating to the hearing, so that the public received adequate notice. No responses to Northern's motion have been filed.

New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Puc 203.12(b) authorizes the Commission to direct the petitioner to provide notice to the general public of a prehearing conference or hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation or another method the Commission “deems appropriate and advisable in order to ensure reasonable notification to interested parties.” In this instance, the Commission has determined that Northern provided sufficient notice to the public of the August 25 hearing, because the order of notice was published on the Company’s website at least two weeks prior to the scheduled hearing. Accordingly, Northern’s motion is GRANTED.

So ordered, this eighteenth day of August, 2022.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 22-020

Printed: 8/18/2022

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