

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 23-086

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

Petition for Approval of Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factor

**Procedural Order Re: Company, OCA, and DOE Motions and
Cancelling October 23 Hearing**


By a Commencement of Adjudicative Proceeding and Notice of Hearing order dated October 4, 2023, the Commission scheduled a hearing in the above-captioned matter for October 23, 2023. On October 9, 2023, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern) filed a motion for a hybrid hearing, on the basis of a Northern personnel member being unable to travel to Concord for the October 23 hearing due to medical reasons. Also on October 9, the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a motion to reschedule the October 23 hearing to another date, based on another scheduled commitment for OCA personnel being held on October 23. On October 10, 2023, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed a motion styled as an “assented-to” motion (though the specific positions of Northern and the OCA were not indicated), requesting the following relief: (1) deferral of the final review and approval of Northern’s requested RDAF rate for two months following the November 1, 2023 effective date; (2) Commission approval of Northern’s requested RDAF rates on an interim basis as of November 1, 2023, with a “preliminary hearing” regarding same to be scheduled for October 23; and (3) accommodation for the parties to confer and submit a procedural schedule for the Commission’s consideration. Neither the OCA nor Northern have made responses to the DOE’s motion as of this date (October 13, 2023).

Having reviewed the various motions in this docket, the Commission makes the following rulings. We note that the DOE and OCA pleadings contradict each other, despite

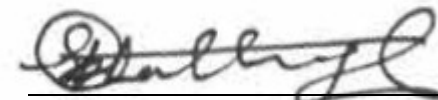
the moniker of “assented-to” being applied by the DOE to its pleading, insofar as the OCA pleads to reschedule the October 23 hearing, and the DOE seeks a “preliminary hearing” for that same date. For administrative efficiency, and fairness, the Commission expects to issue an Order *nisi* granting Northern’s requested Peak RDAF rates, in advance of, and for implementation on, November 1, 2023, in this proceeding, subject to future reconciliation based on the parties’, and the Commission’s, review. The Commission will schedule a single final review hearing for this matter in early January of 2024, given scheduling conflicts for the mid-December period cited by the DOE in its motion. (The Off-Peak RDAF rates proposed to be implemented as of May 1, 2024 by Northern will be addressed by the Commission as part of this final review hearing). Furthermore, the October 23 hearing shall be cancelled, rendering the OCA’s motion moot.

Therefore, the hearing scheduled for October 23, 2023 in this proceeding is hereby CANCELLED. We request that the DOE consult with Northern and the OCA regarding a preferred hearing date in early January 2024, with a filing communicating this to be made no later than November 9, 2023. Northern should also indicate, either through the DOE or to the Commission directly, whether a hybrid format for this later hearing would be requested.

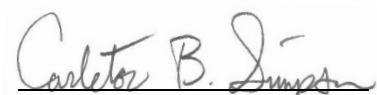
So ordered, this thirteenth day of October, 2023.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 23-086

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