

DG 99-138

ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS, INC.

Petition for an Increase in Short Term Borrowing Authority
Order NISI Approving Increase in Short Term Borrowing Authority

O R D E R N O. 23,311

October 5, 1999

The Petitioner, EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. (ENGI), is requesting an increase in its authorized short term debt limitation from \$15,000,000 to a maximum of \$21,000,000. This would increase ENGI's short term debt limitation from 14.1% to 19.8% of net assets. ENGI estimates that a maximum amount of borrowing outstanding at any one time would be no more than \$20.2 million. As of August 31, 1996, ENGI's outstanding short-term debt was \$7,943,000.

The primary reason for the requested increase is due to the magnitude of deferred environmental costs experienced by ENGI and which are recoverable over seven (7) years without carrying costs. Over \$3.4 million has occurred in the past twelve months and a minimum of \$3.0 million is anticipated over the next twelve months.

ENGI has held discussions with its current lenders regarding the additional borrowing and is confident that it could obtain additional lines of credit at a rate similar to its current agreements.

After reviewing the merits of the petition as set forth

above, and in accordance with RSA 369, we find the approval of the petition is in the public good.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED NISI, that the petition of EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. for authorization to increase its short-term debt limitation from its current level of \$15,000,000 to \$21,000,000 is hereby APPROVED pursuant to RSA 369:7; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules, Puc 1601.05, the Petitioner shall cause a copy of this Order Nisi to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted, such publication to be no later than October 8, 1999 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before October 15, 1999; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this petition be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission no later than October 15, 1999; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than October 19, 1999; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order Nisi shall be effective November 3, 1999, unless the Commission provides

otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fifth day of October, 1999.

Douglas L. Patch
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Thomas B. Getz
Executive Director and Secretary