

DG 02-106

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

Special 2005/2006 Energy Efficiency Weatherization Rebate Program

**Order Approving Special 2005/2006 Energy Efficiency Weatherization Rebate Program for
Program Year Three**

O R D E R N O. 24,534

October 28, 2005

On October 12, 2005, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern) filed with the Commission a proposal to add a new energy efficiency program to the array of programs already approved by the Commission in *Energy Efficiency Programs for Gas Utilities*, 87 NH PUC 892 (2002). This new program, available to residential heating customers, offers a special rebate of \$25 per customer for certain qualifying measures such as weather stripping, caulking, foam insulation spray, pipe insulation, garage door seals and other qualifying measures. The rebate is in addition to the rebates currently offered by other energy efficiency programs and applies to measures purchased between October 1, 2005 and April 30, 2006. To qualify, customers must submit a rebate form, copies of their receipts and the original UPC codes to Northern.

Northern estimates that between 2,000 and 3,000 customers could be participating in the program and that customer savings from installation of the measures could be between 20,000 and 30,000 therms per year. Northern also estimates that the cost of the program is between \$56,000 and \$85,000, funding for which can be obtained from the unexpended funds currently existing in Northern's on-going energy efficiency programs.

Northern has reviewed this special rebate program with the other signatories to the Settlement Agreement in DG 02-106 and has obtained their support for this initiative.

Staff has reviewed Northern's estimated participation levels and program costs

including administrative expense and program savings and finds them to be reasonable. Staff notes that the program is cost effective, delivering savings that exceed costs.

We have reviewed the proposed special 2005/2006 energy efficiency weatherization rebate program and we find that it is reasonable. We also find that Northern's implementation of this program for the upcoming winter heating season is appropriate. We note that Northern's marketing flyers reference an effective date of October 1, 2005; thus, to avoid any confusion on the part of customers, we will approve the program for implementation retroactive to October 1, 2005.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Northern Utilities, Inc. is authorized to implement the special 2005/2006 energy efficiency weatherization rebate program with an effective date of October 1, 2005.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-eighth day of October, 2005.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Graham J. Morrison
Commissioner

Michael D. Harrington
Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary