

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 16-564

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

Cost of Gas Adjustment Clause

Order Suspending Proposed Tariff and Scheduling Prehearing Conference

ORDER NO. 25,924

July 15, 2016

In this Order, the Commission suspends a proposed Northern tariff incorporating revisions to the Cost of Gas Adjustment Clause to enable further investigation of the proposed tariff provisions.

On June 15, 2016, Northern Utilities, Inc. (“Northern”), filed tariffs for a revised Cost of Gas Adjustment Clause mechanism with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”). These revisions to Northern’s Cost of Gas (COG) tariff primarily relate to Northern’s proposal to reduce the number of COG rate filings from two per year (for winter and summer rates) to a single annual COG implementing seasonal (winter and summer) COG rates.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to: whether the proposed rates and tariffs are just and reasonable under RSA Chapter 378 and RSA 374:2; whether the proposal will properly allocate winter and summer seasonal COG costs; and whether the proposal will offer sufficient flexibility and responsiveness in COG rates.

Under RSA 378:3, tariff changes take effect after 30 days’ notice to the Commission and to the public, subject to the Commission’s ability to suspend such changes when an investigation is appropriate, pursuant to RSA 378:6, I (b). Here, Northern’s proposed COG tariff provisions require further investigation, so we suspend the proposed tariff pages filed by Northern pending

our investigation for a period of 3 months, or until October 13, 2016, when the Commission may extend the suspension for up to 5 months if more time is needed, pursuant to RSA 378:6, I (b).

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2016/16-564.html>. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the proposed tariff pages regarding the COG Adjustment Clause filed by Northern, are hereby suspended pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b), through October 13, 2016, pending investigation and further order of the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on August 9, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

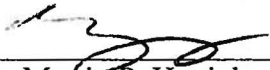
FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Northern, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow Northern to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Northern shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order no later than July 29, 2016, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before August 4, 2016; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Northern and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before August 4, 2016, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be effected by the proceeding, as required by Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before August 9, 2016.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fifteenth day of July, 2016.

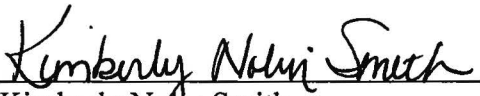


Martin P. Honigberg
Chairman



Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

Attested by:



Kimberly Nolin Smith
Assistant Secretary