

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 17-104

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

PETITION TO CHANGE DELIVERY SERVICE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Order Suspending Proposed Tariff And Scheduling Pre-Hearing Conference

ORDER NO. 26,041

July 13, 2017

This Order suspends a tariff proposing changes to Northern Utilities, Inc.'s, delivery service terms and conditions and schedules a pre-hearing conference for August 16, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.

On June 20, 2017, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern or the Company), filed a petition to modify the Delivery Service Terms and Conditions in Part VII of its tariff. That section of Northern's tariff sets forth the terms and conditions under which customers may purchase their natural gas supply from retail suppliers. Included in the terms are those that govern the process of capacity assignment. That process is the allocation of capacity held by the Company for third-party suppliers servicing the Company's customers. Northern assigns capacity either by releasing it to suppliers who then enter into replacement contracts directly with pipeline or storage operations, or by using Company-managed supplies.

The Company seeks to modify the capacity assignment provisions relating to: (i) the amount of capacity assigned by the Company to each delivery service customer; (ii) the customers that are exempt from capacity assignment; (iii) the resources that are subject to assignment and the form such assignment takes, and (iv) the terms under which delivery service customers may access sales service.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to: whether the proposed tariff changes are just and reasonable under RSA Chapter 378 and whether charges associated with the tariff changes are just and reasonable pursuant to RSA 374:2.

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 tariff provisions require further investigation, so we suspend the proposed tariff pages filed by Northern pending our investigation 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/2017/17-104>.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the proposed tariff pages regarding Delivery Service, Terms, and Conditions in Part VII of Northern's tariff are hereby suspended pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b) to October 13, 2017, pending investigation and further order of the Commission; and it is

ORDERED, that a pre-hearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on August 16, 2017, at 10:00 A.M.; 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 for the parties to discuss and file a proposed procedural schedule; 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 of Notice no later than July 24, 2017, 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 9, 2017; and it is

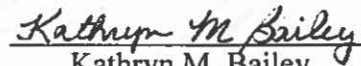
FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.02 and 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Northern and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before August 14, 2017, such petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said objection on or before August 17, 2017.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirteenth day of July, 2017.




 Martin P. Honigberg
 Chairman



 Kathryn M. Bailey
 Commissioner

Attested by:



 Debra A. Howland
 Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.