THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DG 08-117

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 16, 2008, New Hampshire Gas Corporation (NHGC), a public utility providing propane air service to approximately 1,000 customers in Keene, New Hampshire, filed revisions to its tariff providing for its cost of gas (COG) rates for the winter period, November 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009. The proposed COG rate is \$2.2208 per therm, a \$0.456 per therm increase from the weighted average COG rate of \$1.7648 per therm for last winter. NHGC also proposed a \$2.2408 per therm rate for its fixed price option program.

NHGC further proposed that the deferred revenue surcharge effective November 1, 2008 would be \$0.0532 per therm, a \$0.0062 increase over the deferred revenue surcharge of \$0.0470 per therm in effect during the summer 2008 COG period. *New Hampshire Gas Corporation*, Order No. 24,102, 87 NH PUC 862 (2002) approved NHGC's petition to defer on its books the monthly difference, not to exceed \$200,000, between the amount which would be collected under maximum delivery rates and actual rates, without interest. NHGC began recovery of the deferred amount on May 1, 2006, six months after implementation of maximum rates. The deferred revenue will be recovered over a period of 36 months, ending on April 30, 2009.

As a result of the change in the deferred revenue surcharge and the proposed change in the COG rate, a typical residential heating customer's winter bill would be \$2,961, an increase of \$441, or 17.5 percent, compared to last winter's bill.

The filing raises, <u>inter alia</u>, issues related to the reasonableness of rates and charges pursuant to RSA 378, including forecasting of sales, supplier prices and transportation prices, operational issues and reconciliation of prior period costs and revenues. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a hearing on NHGC's 2008/2009 winter COG filing be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 23, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, NHGC shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than September 29, 2008, 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 October 23, 2008; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 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 NHGC and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 20, 2008, 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. Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, **FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 23, 2008.

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By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventeenth day of

September, 2008.

Oc.

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.

