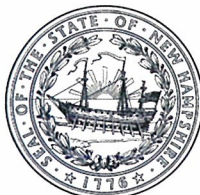


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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



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NHPUC 27APR15PM12:10

April 27, 2015

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Alexander F. Speidel, Hearing Examiner

RE: DG 15-090, Northern Utilities, Inc., Summer 2015 Cost of Gas Filing

HEARING EXAMINER'S REPORT

At your request, I presided over the April 22, 2015 hearing in the above-referenced case.

On March 17, 2015, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Company) filed its proposed cost of gas (COG) rates for the summer period, May 1, 2015, through October 31, 2015. On March 25, 2015, an order of notice scheduling a hearing on April 22, 2015 was issued by the Commission. The Company filed its affidavit of publication of the Order of Notice on April 20, 2015. Also, the Company filed a revised proposal for its COG rates on April 16, 2015. The Company's revised proposed COG rates for the Summer 2015 period, as outlined in the Company's revised Tariff page changes, are as follows, with "maximum" COG rates at the 25 percent increase "collar" level presented in parentheses:

Residential COG Rate:	\$0.3238 per therm (\$0.4048 maximum)
C&I Low Winter Use COG Rate:	\$0.2612 per therm (\$0.3265 maximum)
C&I High Winter Use COG Rate:	\$0.3297 per therm (\$0.4121 maximum)

(The Commission may review the expected customer bill impacts of these proposed COG rates within Revised Attachment 8 of the Company's revised COG filing, Hearing Exhibit 4).

Appearances

Gary Epler, Esq. for the Company
Wayne Jortner, Esq. for the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA)
Rorie Patterson, Esq. for Commission Staff (Staff)
Patricia French, Esq. for joint intervenors Global Montello Group Corp. (Global) and Sprague Operating Resources LLC (Sprague).

Intervention Requests

On April 20, 2015, joint intervenors Global and Sprague filed a timely motion for intervention in this case. Counsel for intervenors, Ms. French, appeared at the April 22, 2015 hearing. The OCA, Staff, and the Company all indicated at hearing that they did not oppose the joint motion to intervene. See Transcript of April 22, 2015 Public Hearing (Tr.) at 10-11. On the basis of the

DG 15-090

Northern Utilities, Inc.

2015 Summer Cost of Gas

Hearing Examiner's Report (Alexander F. Speidel)

Page 2

record, I granted the Global-Sprague joint motion to intervene under the part II discretionary standard of RSA 541-A:32, II. Tr. at 11.

(OCA participating pursuant to RSA 363:28, letter of participation filed on March 24, 2015).

Exhibits Recommended for Acceptance and Marking

The Company requested that the following materials be marked and accepted by the Commission as hearing exhibits:

Confidential Exhibit 1: Confidential version of March 17, 2015 COG Filing, with the pre-filed testimony of Company witnesses Christopher A. Kahl, Francis X. Wells, and Joseph A. Conneely

Exhibit 2: Public, redacted version of March 17, 2015 COG Filing

Confidential Exhibit 3: Confidential version of April 16, 2015 Revised COG Filing

Exhibit 4: Public, redacted version of April 16, 2015 Revised COG Filing

The OCA, Staff, and the joint intervenors Global and Sprague did not object to these proposed Exhibits. As Hearing Examiner, I approved the acceptance and marking of these Hearing Exhibits pursuant to the above scheme. Tr. at 6-8; 22.

Witnesses Presenting Oral Testimony at Hearing

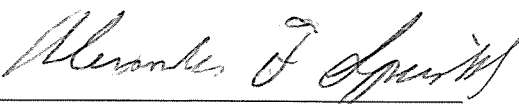
Company representatives Kahl, Conneely, and Wells sat as a witness panel in support of the Company's filing. There was some inquiry from Staff and the OCA regarding a COG accounting item related to a refund from the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS) to the Company in connection with a FERC proceeding. Tr. 23-29; 32-39.

Hearing Examiner's Recommendations for Disposition of the Case

I recommend approval of the COG rates filed for by the Company, to be effective on May 1, 2015, on the basis of the revised April 16, 2015 COG filing made by the Company, with the usual proviso that the approved COG rates are subject to reconciliation.

I recommend Commission confirmation of my approval of the Global-Sprague joint motion to intervene under the part II discretionary standard of RSA 541-A:32, II.

I also recommend that the Commission issue a Supplemental Order of Notice under this current Docket No. DG 15-090, to allow for continued discovery and discussion regarding the PNGTS COG refund item, and to allow other potential interested parties the potential ability to intervene on this issue. I also wish to communicate to the Commission that there may be a future COG reconciliation item related to the PNGTS refund item presented to the Commission for its consideration at a future date, as a result of further discussions by the parties.

By 
Alexander F. Speidel, Hearing Examiner

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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Docket #: 15-090-1 Printed: April 27, 2015

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:
- DEBRA A HOWLAND
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- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.