

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

DG 16-309

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

2016 Summer Period Cost of Gas Adjustment

ORDER OF NOTICE

On March 16, 2016, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its proposed cost of gas (COG) rates for the summer period, May 1, 2016, through October 31, 2016. Included in the filing were revised tariff pages, prefiled testimony, and supporting materials for the proposed rates. 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/2016/16-309.html>.

The proposed residential COG rate is \$0.3196 per therm, an increase of \$0.0234 per therm from the weighted average residential COG rate of \$0.2962 per therm for last summer. The proposed change to Northern's residential COG rate, combined with the other rate changes since last summer, is expected to increase a typical residential heating customer's bill for the entire summer by approximately \$2.33, or less than 1 percent, compared to last summer.

The proposed commercial/industrial low winter use COG rate is \$0.2832 per therm and the proposed commercial/industrial high winter use COG rate is \$0.3619 per therm, increases from last summer's weighted average COG rates of \$0.2253 per therm and \$0.3036 per therm, respectively.

The filing also incorporates a refund from Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS), which totals approximately \$128,190 for the summer 2016 COG period, calculated pursuant to the methodology approved by the Commission in Order No. 25,816 (Sept. 22, 2015) in Docket No. DG 15-090. Northern did not propose any change in its Local Distribution Adjustment Charge (LDAC).

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to: RSA Chapter 378 and the justness and reasonableness of rates, fares, and charges; the reasonableness of sales forecasts, supplier prices, and transportation prices; reconciliation of prior period costs and revenues; the causes and treatment of a prior period under-recovery and supplier refund credit, as authorized by Order No. 25,816; purchasing decisions related to the current and past summer supplies and capacity; revenue projections related to transportation services and released capacity; cost allocations between the New Hampshire and Maine Divisions, and revenues and rate impacts resulting from the proposed rate changes. 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 a hearing be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on April 19, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Northern, the Staff of the Commission, the Office of Consumer Advocate, and any intervenors hold a technical session on April 12, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., 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 of Notice no later than April 5, 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 April 14, 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 April 14, 2016, 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. Rule 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 April 19, 2016.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-ninth day of March, 2016.



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.

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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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
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- 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.