

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

DG 18-094

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

Petition for Authority to Operate in the Town of Epping

ORDER OF NOTICE

On June 5, 2018, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern), a gas utility currently providing service to approximately 33,000 customers in 21 municipalities in the seacoast region of New Hampshire, filed a petition for authority to expand its natural gas distribution network into the Town of Epping. 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/2018/18-094.html>.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to statutory requirements under RSA Chapters 374 and 378, specifically, RSA 374:1, whether Northern can furnish reasonably safe and adequate, and in all other respects, just and reasonable gas service and facilities in the Town of Epping, including all aspects of engineering, safety, and adequacy of pipeline natural gas supply; RSA 374:2, whether Northern can offer its proposed service at just and reasonable charges to customers in the Town of Epping without burdening Northern's existing customers with unreasonable rates due to cross-subsidization; RSAs 374:8 and 374:13, whether Northern keeps, and will continue to keep, accounts and records in the forms prescribed by the Commission in connection with its existing franchises and the proposed franchise in Epping; RSA 374:22 and 374:26, granting the Commission authority to determine whether Northern possesses the financial, technical, and managerial capability to own and operate the proposed natural gas main extension and associated facilities in the Town of Epping, whether the authority requested in the

petition would be for the public good, and whether terms and conditions for the franchise privilege should be applied by the Commission for the public interest; and whether Northern's proposed rates and tariffs for service in Epping, and any updated rates and tariffs for Northern's existing customers, will be just and reasonable and, in all other respects, will conform with the Commission's regulations. 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 Prehearing 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 July 24, 2018 at 10:30 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 it is

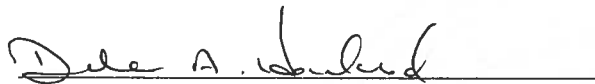
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Northern shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than July 17, 2018, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 20, 2018; 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 to the Office of the

Consumer Advocate on or before July 20, 2018, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before July 24, 2018.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eleventh day of July, 2018.



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.