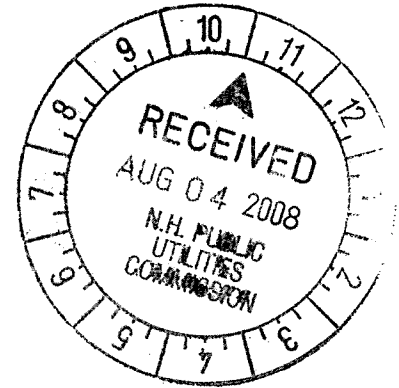


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Debra A. Howland
Executive Director and Secretary
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit St, Suite 10
Concord NH 03301

Meredith A. Hatfield
Consumer Advocate – NHPUC

July 25, 2008



RE: DG 08-009, ENNI/National Grid – Technical Session

Dear Ms Howland and Ms. Hatfield:

I understand that DG 08-009 technical sessions are for the NHPUC and National Grid to discuss natural gas rate increases.

However, I have a related issue I would like the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission to consider during this session. I apologize for the late notification.

Bartlett Common is a subdivision adjoining our property in Amherst, NH and they have natural gas. Because Bartlett Common is so close, I decided to look into converting our home at 2 Juniper Drive from fuel oil to natural gas. Why? Natural gas is less than half the cost of fuel oil; it's much cleaner; and no more deliveries or oil tanks.

National Grid (formerly Keyspan) was running a promotion with a \$1500 rebate for new customers converting to natural gas. I went to their website and confirmed that the promotion included Amherst, New Hampshire.

Between May 2, 2008 and June 25, 2008, I contacted National Grid over twenty times and spoke with twelve different people about converting our home at 2 Juniper Drive, Amherst, NH, to natural gas.

In the course of these conversations, National Grid wanted to know how many people on Juniper Drive were interested in converting to natural gas. They would not consider extending the pipeline unless 4 or 5 of my neighbors provided their names, addresses, and phone numbers, confirming their interest in natural gas conversion.

In June, I wrote a letter to my neighbors and included a chart with the current costs of fuel in New Hampshire. There was a great response to my letter. Fourteen of my neighbors provided their names, addresses, and phone numbers so National Grid would estimate the cost of bringing natural gas from Josiah Bartlett Road/Amherst Street to Juniper Drive in Amherst.

A week after I faxed the 14 names/addresses to National Grid, one of their field reps, Rick Pelletier, called me. According to Rick, the pipeline needs to be extended 700 feet to reach our house. National Grid's estimate is \$35,000 just to run the pipeline to 2 Juniper Drive. For the entire road, the estimate is \$250,000 to \$300,000. I think these costs are excessive.

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Furthermore, both Eileen Reardon and Rick Pelletier at National Grid provided the following information.

- 1 National Grid is not interested in extending their pipeline anywhere in New Hampshire at this time. (This was repeated to me several times).
- 2 If National Grid were to install a pipeline on Juniper Drive, they would not absorb any of the cost. The entire cost of extending the pipeline is charged to the residential customer(s).
- 3 National Grid will not consider a pipeline project unless they can recoup their investment within 4 years. Even if everyone on Juniper Drive converted to natural gas, it would not generate enough profit to merit the investment.

Taking into account (1) substantial consumer savings, (2) immediate availability (there are existing pipelines in some New Hampshire towns), and (3) lower carbon emissions, natural gas should play a key role in New Hampshire's energy efficiency and sustainable energy strategy(ies).

I am continuing to pursue this issue. My view is that if natural gas pipelines can be easily extended within New Hampshire communities, the NHPUC (New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission) needs to support these changes. Please determine what needs to be done so National Grid will extend their existing natural gas pipelines within New Hampshire.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

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