## THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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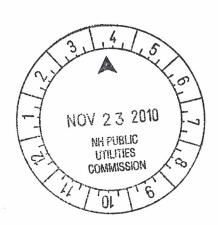
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY Debra A. Howland



## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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November 23, 2010



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HAND DELIVERED

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301

Re:

Docket DG 10-230 EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. d/b/a National Grid NH

(National Grid) Winter 2010-2011 Cost of Gas Supplemental Motion for Confidential Treatment

Dear Ms. Howland:

This letter is in reference to National Grid's motion for confidential treatment, received on November 16, 2010, in the above-captioned docket. The motion for confidential treatment relates to National Grid's supplemental response to Staff's Data Request 1-23, for which National Grid provided a partial response prior to the issuance of the Commission's Order on this docket on October 28, 2010. National Grid's supplemental response has been tendered in Attachment Staff 1-23(c), with suggested redactions on pages 2, 3, and 4 of 5. (National Grid's Attachment Staff 1-23(c) is the capacity management agreement for baseload and swing gas supply resources that will be effective for the 2010-2011 Cost of Gas period).

National Grid, in its motion, argues that releasing this information will result in a competitive disadvantage to it in the form of less advantageous or more expensive gas asset-management contracts. According to National Grid, if gas asset managers possessed this information, they would be aware of National Grid's asset management costs and terms, and would not be likely to propose terms as beneficial as those in existence. National Grid also argues that disclosing asset-management pricing and other contractual information could undermine potential asset managers' willingness to enter into asset management agreements with National Grid, and to participate in future solicitations for such agreements. As such, National Grid contends that disclosing this confidential commercial information would cause it competitive disadvantage and that the information should, therefore, be exempt from disclosure under RSA chapter

91-A, and otherwise treated as confidential. These arguments for confidential treatment, and the underlying subject matter of Attachment Staff 1-23(c), are closely related to the arguments for confidential treatment and subject matter presented with National Grid's partial responses to Staff 1-23 provided to Staff on September 24, 2010. The Commission, in its Order dated October 28, 2010, granted National Grid's motion for confidential treatment for National Grid's redactions presented in Attachment Staff 1-23(a), pages 2 and 3 of 4, and Attachment Staff 1-23(b), page 2 of 4. National Grid, in its motion dated November 15, 2010, requests the issuance of a secretarial letter by the Commission clarifying that the Commission's granting of confidential treatment to Attachments Staff 1-23(a) and 1-23(b) in its Order dated October 28, 2010 extends to the supplemental response to Staff 1-23 provided in Attachment 1-23(c).

Staff considers National Grid's suggested redactions to Attachment 1-23(c) to be reasonable and appropriate under RSA chapter 91-A, and recommends approval of National Grid's motion for confidential treatment, as delineated above, through the issuance of a secretarial letter extending confidential treatment to portions of Attachment Staff 1-23(c) at pages 2, 3, and 4 of 5.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Alexander F. Speidel

Alexander J. Speidel

Staff Attorney