

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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December 18, 2020

Todd J. Griset, Esq.  
Preti Flaherty Beliveau & Pachios LLP  
45 Memorial Circle  
P.O. Box 1058  
Augusta, ME 04332-1058

Re: DM 15-421, Shell Energy North America (US), L.P.  
Motion for Temporary Waiver of Puc 3003.02  
Granting Waiver of Puc 3003.02(b) and Puc 3003.02(g)

Dear Mr. Griset:

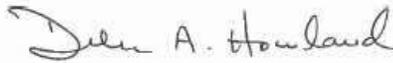
On December 7, 2020, Shell Energy North America (US), L.P. (Shell), a registered competitive natural gas supplier (CNGS), filed a motion for a temporary waiver of N.H. Admin. R., Puc 3003.02. In its motion, Shell requested that it be permitted to file a CNGS renewal registration application by December 21, 2020 and that its current registration be extended so it can continue to provide competitive natural gas service to its customers. Shell's current registration was approved with a term running through November 30, 2020. Under Puc 3003.02(b), Shell's renewal application should have been filed at least 60 days prior to that date, on or before October 1, 2020. Shell cited workflow issues related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as the primary cause for its delay in filing a registration renewal application.

On December 10, 2020, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a memorandum, noting that Shell had effectively requested waivers of both Puc 3003.02(b) (renewal application filing deadline) and Puc 3003.02(g) (renewed CNGS registration valid for five years) to extend both the deadline for filing its renewal application and the term of its current CNGS registration. Staff opined that Shell met the standard for rule waivers set forth in Puc 201.05, which provides that the Commission may waive a rule if it finds the waiver serves the public interest and will not disrupt the orderly and efficient resolution of matters before the Commission. According to Staff, Shell stated an understandable basis for its failure to file a registration renewal application by the specified date and expressed its desire that the administrative oversight not prevent it from continuing to serve customers during any ensuing "gap period." Staff maintained that the potential disruption to customers' natural gas supply arrangements favors extending both the filing deadline and the current CNGS registration term in this instance.

Staff therefore recommended that the Commission grant waivers of both Puc 3003.02(b) and Puc 3003.02(g) to permit Shell to submit its registration renewal application by December 21, 2020 and to extend Shell's current CNGS registration term until that application is either approved or rejected under Puc 3003.02.

The Commission has reviewed Shell's request for waiver of Puc 3003.02(b) and, implicitly, Puc 3003.02(g), and, based on Staff's recommendation, determined that the standards for waiver contained in Puc 201.05 have been satisfied. Accordingly, the Commission has granted waivers of both Puc 3003.02(b) and Puc 3003.02(g), allowing Shell to submit its CNGS registration renewal application by December 21, 2020 and reinstating and extending Shell's current CNGS registration term from and after November 30, 2020 until the renewal application is either approved or rejected under Puc 3003.02. Shell's registration renewal application shall be filed on or before December 21, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra A. Howland". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

cc: Service List (Electronically)  
Docket File

## Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 15-421

Printed: 12/18/2020

Email Addresses

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