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**I N D E X**

**PAGE NO.**

**DISCUSSION ON MOTION FOR  
CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT** 4

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**STATEMENTS OF PRELIMINARY POSITION BY:**

Mr. Taylor 5

Mr. Brennan 6

Ms. Fabrizio 7

**P R O C E E D I N G**

1  
2 CMSR. BAILEY: Good morning. We're  
3 here today in Docket Number DG 19-126 to  
4 consider Northern's Least Cost Integrated  
5 Resource Plan.

6 I note for the record that we  
7 received an affidavit of publication on  
8 August 22nd. We have not received any motions  
9 to intervene. And we have one motion for  
10 confidential treatment of gas supply and  
11 pricing information.

12 So, before we begin, let's take  
13 appearances.

14 MR. TAYLOR: Good morning,  
15 Commissioners. Patrick Taylor, on behalf of  
16 Northern Utilities, Inc. With me today are Dan  
17 Goodwin, Rob Furino, and Fran Wells from the  
18 Company's Energy Contracts group.

19 MR. BRENNAN: Good morning,  
20 Commissioners. My name is Jim Brennan. I'm  
21 the Finance Director for the Office of Consumer  
22 Advocate, representing residential ratepayers.

23 Consumer Advocate Kreis extends his  
24 apologies. He is unable to be here this

1 morning.

2 MS. FABRIZIO: Good morning,  
3 Commissioners. Lynn Fabrizio on behalf of  
4 Staff today. And with me at the table are  
5 Al-Azad Iqbal, Utility Analysis with the Gas &  
6 Water Division, and Steve Frink, Director of  
7 the Gas & Water Division.

8 CMSR. BAILEY: Good morning. Does  
9 anybody have any objections to the motion for  
10 confidential treatment?

11 MS. FABRIZIO: Staff has no  
12 objection. And the information that is  
13 requested to be protected appear to be supply  
14 costs and capacity prices, which are standard  
15 information that are typically protected in  
16 these sorts of proceedings.

17 CMSR. BAILEY: And can I just  
18 confirm, Mr. Taylor, that the only confidential  
19 information is contained on Pages 114 --  
20 Section VI, Page 114, Section VIII, Page 129,  
21 or there's Roman Numerals, "VIII-129", and the  
22 filing is not Bates marked, and then  
23 Appendix 5?

24 MR. TAYLOR: Confirmed as to Appendix

1 5. I don't have the IRP open in front of me  
2 right now for the page references, but that  
3 sounds correct.

4 I think the amount of confidential  
5 information that we -- or, the amount of  
6 information that we've sought confidential  
7 treatment for in this filing is quite limited.  
8 The vast majority of the filing is public.  
9 We've only redacted the supply information  
10 that, as Attorney Fabrizio mentioned, is  
11 customarily protected in these dockets. So,  
12 yes.

13 CMSR. BAILEY: I appreciate that.  
14 Thank you.

15 *(Cmsr. Bailey and Cmsr. Giaimo*  
16 *conferring.)*

17 CMSR. BAILEY: All right. We're  
18 going to grant the motion for confidential  
19 treatment of those few pages.

20 All right. With that, let's take  
21 initial positions.

22 Oh, sorry. Mr. Taylor.

23 MR. TAYLOR: That's okay. Well, good  
24 morning. The Company's 2019 Integrated

1 Resource Plan describes, among other things,  
2 Northern's projected long-term resource needs  
3 over the next five years. The IRP provides  
4 significant detail regarding the Company's  
5 forecasting and the planning processes that the  
6 Company uses to develop a natural gas portfolio  
7 to provide reliable service to customers at a  
8 reasonable price.

9 This is also the first Northern IRP  
10 to address the requirements of RSA 378:38 and  
11 39. The Company invested a significant amount  
12 of work in this Plan. We believe it's  
13 comprehensive, transparent, and consistent with  
14 all of the statutory and Commission  
15 requirements for IRPs.

16 We expect that the Staff and the  
17 Consumer Advocate will want to closely examine  
18 this docket. And we look forward to working  
19 with them in a collaborative way to get that  
20 done.

21 Thank you.

22 CMSR. BAILEY: Mr. Brennan.

23 MR. BRENNAN: The OCA is reviewing  
24 the Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan, and

1 we're not ready to take a position at this  
2 time.

3 CMSR. BAILEY: Ms. Fabrizio.

4 MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you. Staff has  
5 conducted a preliminary review of Northern's  
6 Petition and Plan, and will conduct a more  
7 detailed review of the Plan during this  
8 proceeding. At this time, Staff has no  
9 position on the filing.

10 And at today's technical session, we  
11 will work with the Company and the Consumer  
12 Advocate to develop a schedule involving  
13 discovery, further technical sessions as  
14 needed, and testimony. And we will keep the  
15 Commission advised about this effort through  
16 our own filings and recommendations.

17 Thank you.

18 CMSR. BAILEY: All right. Is there  
19 anything else that we need to do before we  
20 leave you to your technical session?

21 MR. TAYLOR: No.

22 CMSR. BAILEY: Okay. Then, we will  
23 adjourn the hearing and let you get to work.

24 Thank you very much.

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MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you.

*(Whereupon the prehearing  
conference was adjourned at  
10:17 a.m., and a technical  
session was held thereafter.)*