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1	STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE	
2	PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	
3		
4	June 11, 2020 - 10:05 a.m.	
5	[Remote hearing conducted via Webex]	
6		
7	RE: DG 19-126	
8	NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC. 2019-2024 IRP	
9	(Hearing on Settlement Agreement)	
10		
11	PRESENT: Chairwoman Dianne Martin, Presiding Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey	
12	Commissioner Michael S. Giaimo	
13	Jody Carmody, Clerk Eric Wind, PUC Remote Hearing Host	
14		
15	APPEARANCES: Reptg. Northern Utilities, Inc.	
16	Patrick H. Taylor, Esq.	
17	Rptg. Office of Consumer Advocate: Christa Shute, Esquire	
18	Reptg. PUC Staff:	
	Lynn Fabrizio, Esq.	
19		
20		
21	Court Reporter: Susan J. Robidas, NH LCR No. 44	
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Good

PROCEEDINGS

morning, everyone. All right. We're here this morning in Docket DG 19-126 for a hearing regarding the Northern Utilities, Inc. Petition for Approval of its 2019 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan. A settlement agreement has been filed. I need to make some necessary findings because we're doing this hearing remotely, so I'll do that now.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:

As Chairwoman of the Public
Utilities Commission, I find that due to the
state of emergency declared by the Governor
as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in
accordance with the Governor's Emergency
Order No. 12, pursuant to Executive Order
2020-04, this public body is authorized to
meet electronically. Please note that there
is no physical location to observe and listen
contemporaneously to this hearing, which was
authorized pursuant to the Governor's
Emergency Order. However, in accordance with
the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we
are utilizing Webex for this electronic

hearing; all members of the Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during the hearing through this platform; and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate. We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the hearing in the Order of Notice. If anybody has a problem during the hearing, please call (603)271-2431. In the event the public is unable to access the hearing, the hearing will be adjourned and rescheduled.

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Okay. Couple ground rules. You may have heard some of these already from Mr. Wind. First, if you're not talking, please be sure to mute yourself. It really does help with the audio. If you need to be recognized for something other than an objection, please put your hand up. I will do my best to recognize you as soon possible. But feel free to start waving at me if I don't see you. If you're making an objection, feel free to speak that out at any You don't need to wait to be time.

recognized. For confidential information, please be careful not to talk about confidential information inadvertently. Ιf you can just point to the document and page number where the information is contained, we will all look at it together. If it is absolutely necessary to identify confidential information on the record today, please let me know first so that we can make sure only those who should have access to that information are still on the line. speak slowly and leave time for others to consider a response before proceeding. Because of the remote platform, we need to give time for people to respond and for me to recognize them. If you need a recess, please let me know. Any party who takes a recess should make sure to mute yourselves and turn off the video. And lastly, this is a formal proceeding, so please don't do anything you wouldn't otherwise do in a hearing. All right. Let's start by

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{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}

Commission. When each Commissioner states

taking a roll-call attendance of the

	,
1	their presence, please also state where you
2	are located and if anyone else is with you.
3	My name's Dianne Martin. I'm
4	the Chairwoman of the Public Utilities
5	Commission. I am located at my home in
6	Deerfield, New Hampshire, and no one is in
7	the room with me.
8	Commissioner Bailey.
9	COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Good
10	morning. I'm Commissioner Kathryn Bailey. I
11	am located at my home in Bow, New Hampshire,
12	and no one is with me.
13	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Commissioner
14	Giaimo.
15	COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Good
16	morning. Mike Giaimo. I am at the Commission
17	Office, in my office by myself.
18	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Let's
19	take appearances from the parties, please.
20	Mr. Taylor.
21	MR. TAYLOR: Good morning. Can
22	you hear me?
23	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Yes.
24	MR. TAYLOR: Good morning. This

1	is Patrick Taylor, on behalf of Northern
2	Utilities, Inc. I am appearing from my home in
3	Concord, New Hampshire, a stone's throw from
4	the Commission. With me today are Rob Furino,
5	our Director of Energy Contracts. He will be
6	appearing as a witness today. We will also
7	have Fran Wells, or Francis Wells, and Dan
8	Goodwin. They typically would be sitting to my
9	right at the table, and they are here in a
10	support role.
11	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank
12	you.
13	Ms. Shute.
14	MS. SHUTE: Thank you,
15	Chairwoman Martin. My name is Christa Shute.
16	I'm here on behalf of the Office of Consumer
17	Advocate as a staff attorney. And I am going
18	to mute my computer. Hold on. (Pause)
19	And we represent the
20	residential ratepayers. With me today is Dr.
21	Pradip Chattopadhyay. And I am in Hinesburg,
22	Vermont, and there's no one else in this
23	room.
24	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you.

Ms. Fabrizio.

MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you,
Chairwoman Martin. My name's Lynn Fabrizio.

I'm a staff attorney at the Commission. With
me today will be Al-Azad Iqbal, utility analyst
with the Commission's Gas and Water Division.

He will be testifying today. And also
available as needed is Steve Frink, Director of
the Gas and Water Division here at the
Commission. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Do we have preliminary matters to address before we swear in the witnesses?

MR. TAYLOR: I just wanted to raise one issue before the hearing today. The Company submitted a motion for confidential treatment in connection with attachments to four discovery responses that were submitted during the course of this proceeding. As the Commission knows, Commission Rule 203.08(d) permits respondents to submit confidential materials in discovery accompanied by a statement that a motion will be filed at or before the hearing in the matter. The Company

submitted its discovery responses, accompanied by such a statement, and we filed a motion this morning in advance of the hearing to comply with that rule. And so I certainly don't expect the Commission is going to take that motion up today, but I just wanted to bring it to the Commission's attention that we did file that motion this morning.

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And then perhaps another issue just to raise is that the Company submitted a revised Integrated Resource Plan during the course of this docket. The confidential and redacted versions of that revised IRP are included as Exhibits 3 and 4 for this The Commission had already granted hearing. a motion for confidential treatment in connection with the Company's initial LCIRP filing, and when the Company filed its revised LCIRP, the assumption was that the confidential treatment carried over to that same document because it was merely a revision of the originally filed document. So I would request that the confidential treatment afforded to the original filing be

1	extended to the revised filing as well. If,
2	however, the Commission would like the
3	Company to file a separate motion as a
4	procedural matter, we're certainly willing to
5	do that.
6	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Let's
7	take that in two parts. First, the request to
8	apply the confidential treatment to the revised
9	version of the plan. Is there any objection to
10	that?
11	[No verbal response]
12	MS. FABRIZIO: Staff does not
13	object.
14	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Ms. Shute?
15	MS. SHUTE: The OCA does not
16	object.
17	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Then
18	I think we can grant that request now.
19	As for the newly filed motion,
20	we won't rule on that right now, but we'll
21	issue or it will be part of the order that
22	we issue from this hearing. But we will
23	treat everything that is currently marked as
24	confidential as confidential during this

1	hearing.
2	Yes, Ms. Shute.
3	MS. SHUTE: Just for
4	clarification, how long does our office have to
5	review the motion? Is that the ten-day
6	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: You have,
7	yes, the standard amount of time to respond.
8	But obviously, if you could respond as quickly
9	as possible, it would be appreciated.
LO	MS. SHUTE: Absolutely.
L1	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Is Staff in
L2	the same position of wanting to review the
L3	motion before responding?
L4	MS. FABRIZIO: Yes, we would
L5	like to review it. We don't expect it to take
L6	very long. Thank you.
L7	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you.
L8	Okay. And then exhibits. We
L9	have Exhibits 1 through 7 which are premarked
20	and prefiled for identification. So other
21	than that, is there anything else we need to
22	discuss before swearing in the witnesses?
23	[No verbal response]
24	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay.

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before the Commission?

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1	A.	(Furino) Yes, I have testified to the
2		Company's prior integrated resource plans
3		that have been filed since Unitil acquired
4		Northern Utilities in 2008. Last year I
5		testified to the Company's petition for
6		preapproval of the (connectivity issue)
7		(Court Reporter interrupts.)
8		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Excuse me.
9		Could you just hold up for a moment. The Court
10		Reporter couldn't hear you.
11	A.	(Furino) In support of the Company's petition
12		for preapproval of a pipeline contract as
13		part of the Westbrook XPress Project.
14	Q.	Mr. Furino, hearing Exhibits 1 and 2 are the
15		Company's initially filed Least Cost
16		Integrated Resource Plan and appendices in
17		confidential and redacted versions,
18		respectively. And Exhibits 3 and 4 are the
19		Company's revised Least Cost Integrated
20		Resource Plan, also in confidential and
21		redacted form. Were these were the IRP
22		and appendices prepared by you or under your
23		direction?
24	A.	(Furino) Yes, they were.

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1	Q.	And are there any corrections to these	
2		exhibits that are not already incorporated in	
3		the revised IRP that you'd like to note on	
4		the record today?	
5	A.	(Furino) No. Thank you.	
6	Q.	And is the information presented in these	
7		exhibits true and accurate to the best of	
8		your knowledge and belief?	
9	A.	(Furino) Yes.	
10		MR. TAYLOR: I have no further	
11		questions for Mr. Furino in the qualification.	
12		I do have some direct for him. Given that	
13		we're doing this as a panel, do the Staff and	
14		the OCA want to do their witnesses now, or	
15		should I proceed with my direct?	
16		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: What's the	
17		preference of the parties?	
18		MS. FABRIZIO: Staff would	
19		prefer to introduce our witness and then	
20		proceed as a collective.	
21		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Ms. Shute,	
22		is that okay with you? Ms. Shute?	
23		MS. SHUTE: I was on mute. Yes	٠.
24		DIRECT EXAMINATION	

- 1 BY MS. SHUTE:
- Q. So, Dr. Chattopadhyay, could you please
- introduce yourself and your position with the
- 4 OCA.
- 5 A. (Chattopadhyay) Yes. My name is Pradip
- 6 Chattopadhyay, and I'm the Assistant Consumer
- 7 Advocate.
- 8 Q. And did you file testimony in this docket
- 9 that's been entered into the record as
- 10 Exhibit 5, and was that testimony prepared by
- 11 you or under your direction?
- 12 A. (Chattopadhyay) Yes to both parts.
- 13 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to
- 14 your testimony?
- 15 A. (Chattopadhyay) Yes, I do. Line 18 of Bates
- Page 007 should be corrected to replace
- 17 "EnergyNorth" with "Northern Utilities." I
- 18 had inadvertently written EnergyNorth there
- 19 while I meant Northern Utilities.
- 20 Q. And do you adopt this testimony for this
- 21 proceeding?
- 22 A. (Chattopadhyay) I do.
- CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Excuse me.
- 24 Ms. Shute, just to confirm for the record,

17 1 that's Exhibit 6; is that correct? 2 MS. FABRIZIO: I believe that's Exhibit 5. 3 MS. SHUTE: Yes, I thought it 4 was Exhibit 5, but I will doublecheck. 5 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: 6 7 doublechecking, too. I just want to make sure we have it right. Yes, Exhibit 5. Sorry about 8 that. 9 10 MS. SHUTE: Okay. I have a 11 couple direct questions that I will follow up with at the appropriate time. 12 13 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank 14 you. Ms. Fabrizio. 15 16 MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you. 17 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. FABRIZIO: 18 19 0. Good morning, Mr. Iqbal. Could you please 20 state your full name for the record. 21 Α. (Iqbal) My name is Al-Azad Iqbal. 22 And what is your position at the Commission? Q. 23 (Iqbal) I'm an analyst in gas, Water and Gas 24 Division.

		18
1	Q.	And in that capacity, were you the lead
2		analyst responsible for reviewing Northern's
3		LCIRP in this proceeding, premarked as
4		confidential Exhibits 1 and 3?
5	A.	(Iqbal) Yes.
6		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Ms.
7		Fabrizio, can I interrupt for a second? I
8		apologize. Can you turn down your computer
9		speaker? We're getting a lot of echo. And I
10		know that's usually my issue.
11		MS. FABRIZIO: Okay.
12		DR. CHATTOPADHYAY: And Christa,
13		you might be unmuted.
14		MS. FABRIZIO: Eric, will
15		turning back my speaker under "Connections"
16		work? Does that sound better?
17		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: I think so.
18		Go ahead and keep going and we'll see how it
19		goes.
20		MS. FABRIZIO: Okay.
21	BY M	IS. FABRIZIO:
22	Q.	Mr. Iqbal, in your capacity as a utility
23		analyst at the Commission, were you the lead
24		analyst responsible for reviewing Northern's

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                (Pause in proceedings.)
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                         CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                              Okay.
                                                     Ms.
         Robidas, back on the record. Thank you.
3
                         Mr. Taylor, it was your turn
4
         to start with examination.
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                         MR. TAYLOR:
                                      Thank you.
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                DIRECT EXAMINATION (cont'd)
8
    BY MR. TAYLOR:
         Mr. Furino, can you please give a brief,
9
10
         high-level overview of the Company's
11
         five-year Least Cost Integrated Resource
12
         Plan?
         (Furino) Yes. Thank you.
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               The Company filed its 2019 Least Cost
15
         Integrated Resource Plan in July 2019, which
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         set forth its long-term projected resource
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         needs for the coming five-year period from
         2019-2020 through 2023-2024 and to review the
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         planning process used to develop its natural
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         gas portfolio which it relies upon to provide
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         Northern's customers reliable service at a
22
         reasonable cost. At a high level, the 2019
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         IRP provides detail regarding the development
         of the demand forecast, a system throughput
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forecast under design weather conditions and conversion of that demand forecast into the Company's long-term planning load requirements. The IRP also describes the Company's current portfolio of long-term assets and compares the supplies available from the portfolio to that long-term planning load requirement forecast in order to assess its incremental resource needs, which is something we refer to as the "resource balance."

The IRP then goes on to address potential supply alternatives and the Company's long-term resource decision-making process. This is the first IRP that the Company has submitted to evaluate resources under the current framework set forth in RSA 378:38 and 39. As part of that, the Company added resource impact categories to be able to describe its current resource portfolio and also evaluate its incremental supply options in those categories.

We also introduced an expanded planning environment which describes the regulatory

- framework in the two states where we serve 1 2 customers, introduces some environmental background that hadn't been in our prior 3 integrated resource plans, and generally 4 5 provides updates as to our Retail Choice Program and other operating environments. 6 7 And we also added some comprehensive pipeline 8 maps that actually show each system the Company takes service from and tracing of the 9 10 specific capacity paths that we have service 11 on.
- 12 Q. Mr. Furino, can you also please summarize the
 13 revisions to the IRP that the Company
 14 submitted earlier this year?

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A. (Furino) Yes. The Company revised the IRP in February to address issues raised at a technical session in December 2019 and to make certain corrections that the Company identified. Among the changes, we had updates to various tables, including some transposed data, for example, of some weather-related tables. We updated and expanded the discussion of the resource impact categories which I just spoke about.

We restated energy efficiency costs to remove participant costs. We updated our resource options section on our resource impact summary, added some discussion there. And then lastly, we expanded and clarified our Qualitative Assessment category to more generally state the environmental impact, economic development, and health and safety aspects as part of our qualitative assessment.

- Q. Thank you. Mr. Furino, can you please give a brief overview of the settlement agreement among the Company, the Staff and the Office of Consumer Advocate?
- A. (Furino) Yes. Sure. First of all, we appreciate the collaborative efforts of the Staff and the OCA in this docket, and certainly with the settlement.

The settling parties recommend that the Commission accept the 2019-2020 IRP as adequate pursuant to RSA 378:39. The parties also recommend establishing a working group to discuss potential approaches to the recommendations regarding assessment of

environmental, economic and health-related
impact as required under RSA 378:37 to 40.
The scope of those discussions would include
exploration of various alternative resources,
whether revisions to Northern's future Least
Cost IRP planning processes are feasible and
practical, and what the cost and impact of
possible revisions to both Maine and New
Hampshire would be. The settling parties
recommend that the working group begin within
three months of an order in this docket
approving the settlement agreement and the
IRP. The focus of initial meetings will be
to define a reasonable scope of study and
desired outcomes. The settling parties agree
to provide the working group recommendations
to the Commission by June 1st, 2021, for a
Commission order that would provide guidance
regarding future expectations for compliance
under RSA 378:37 to 40 for Northern's future
IRPs.
Submittal of Northern's next IRP would

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Commission's order responding to the working

be due 12 months from the date of the

group recommendations. The working group would ultimately provide a report to the Commission regarding whether and how Northern's future IRPs would further incorporate assessments of environmental, economic and health-related impact into our least cost planning, including consideration of alternative resources. Specifically, the working group recommendations would address three things: Statutory interpretation of RSA 378:37 to 40, recommended criteria for evaluation of least cost resources to meet the applicable statutory requirements, and the content and presentation of Northern's future IRP filings.

Finally, Northern has been conducting an internal evaluation of Monte Carlo-based weather distribution which the settling parties had interest in. And Northern has agreed to provide its analysis and findings with the working group.

Q. Thank you, Mr. Furino. Have there been any significant changes in the Company's resource portfolio as presented in Chapter 6 of the

IRP since the IRP was filed?

- A. (Furino) No changes. However, as the
 Commission's aware, the Company's WXP
 proposal, the Westbrook XPress Project
 proposal, was approved by both the Maine and
 New Hampshire Commissions. So in the filing
 itself we presented that as a proposed
 resource, and now we consider it a pending
 resource. That's the only change.
- Q. Thank you. In the Company's last New
 Hampshire LCIRP docket, which was 15-033, and
 what I will call a companion docket, Docket
 15-009, which looked at allocation issues
 between Maine and New Hampshire, there's a
 significant amount of attention paid to the
 Retail Choice Program design differences in
 New Hampshire and Maine, as well as related
 planning challenges. Have those issues been
 resolved and reflected in the current LCIRP?
- A. (Furino) Yes, they have. And we provide a discussion and history in that Planning Environment section that I mentioned. I think it's Section 3 of the IRP.

But briefly, in the prior IRP which we

filed in 2015, there was significant
uncertainty that was triggered by the design
of the Maine delivery service terms and
conditions because those terms and conditions
did not include capacity assignment at a
hundred percent -- (connectivity issue)

(Court Reporter interrupts.)

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(Furino) Did not include capacity assignment at a hundred percent of customer requirements. So as a consequence, in the 2015 IRP, the Company was faced with uncertainty and presented three alternative planning load forecasts that reflected different paradigms. Those issues have all been resolved. The State of Maine -- our Maine division now has 100 percent capacity assignment, similar to the New Hampshire division. That was approved and became effective in November 2019. And so now the Company is operating under very similar capacity assignment regimes in both states. And in the current filing, we were able to present a single planning load forecast. that's a great improvement from our

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         perspective.
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         Thank you. Is it your belief that the
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         settlement agreement that's been presented to
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         the Commission is reasonable and in the
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         public interest?
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         (Furino) I do. It is, yes. Thank you.
6
    Α.
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                         MR. TAYLOR: I have no
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         additional questions for Mr. Furino at this
         time.
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                         CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you.
11
                         Ms. Shute.
                         MS. SHUTE: I do not have any
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         questions for Mr. Furino, but I can proceed
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14
         with Dr. Chattopadhyay.
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                         CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Yes, please.
16
                DIRECT EXAMINATION (cont'd)
17
    BY MS. SHUTE:
         Would you explain why -- (connectivity issue)
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19
                         CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: We're having
20
         trouble hearing you. Let's go off the record.
21
                (Discussion off the record)
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                         CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Let's go
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         back on the record, please.
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                         MS. SHUTE: Thank you.
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1 BY MS. SHUTE:

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- Q. Dr. Chattopadhyay, could you please describe why you filed testimony in this docket.
- (Chattopadhyay) Yes, I can. As should be Α. evident from the OCA's testimony, our focus in this docket has been limited to sort of opining under Northern's IRPs going forward. As stated in my testimony, the OCA predominantly wanted to prompt a process going forward wherein the stakeholders develop some recommendations for the Commission's consideration to allow it to provide guidance to the gas utility as to how to internalize considerations of environmental and health impacts, and perhaps accommodate non-gas alternatives like demand response and load management efforts. as traditional resources are continued to be considered in the resource portfolio mix for the least cost integrated planning purpose, the OCA filed its testimony in this docket primarily to see whether we can reach agreement with the parties to enable us to

request the Commission allow us to proceed

- with such a process. The parties agree that
 additional guidance from the Commission will
 be helpful going forward into the future
 IRPs.
- Q. And did you participate in the development of the settlement agreement entered into by the parties?
- 8 A. (Chattopadhyay) Yes, I did.

- Q. And could you please explain why you support the terms of the settlement agreement and find it to be just and reasonable and in the public interest?
- A. (Chattopadhyay) Yes. First of all, I will just point out that we are on the same page as the Staff is as to whether we consider the Company's 2019 IRP to be adequate pursuant to RSA 378:39. Again, as noted previously, with the inclusion of gas utilities into the IRP statute under RSA 378, the OCA believes there is a need for Commission's guidance on how environmental impacts and non-gas alternatives will be considered in developing the Company's least cost integrated resource plans going forward.

1		As I've noted in my testimony, we wanted
2		to prompt the parties to work collaboratively
3		in providing some recommendations to the
4		Commission to help shape its guidance, to the
5		extent the Commission can provide that, for
6		future IRPs. The settlement allows us to
7		request the Commission to do that. While
8		traditional solutions will continue to be
9		considered, to the extent the new statutory
10		requirements on environmental and health
11		impacts and non-gas alternatives require a
12		different approach to future IRPs, the
13		working group will endeavor collectively to
14		come up with recommendations for the
15		Commission's consideration.
16		We, as the OCA, would respectfully urge
17		the Commission to approve this settlement to
18		allow that process to start later this year.
19	Q.	Thank you.
20		MS. SHUTE: I have no further
21		questions.
22		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Ms.
23		Fabrizio.
24		MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you. I

- have no questions at this time for either

 Northern or OCA witnesses. I will proceed

 directly to Mr. Iqbal.
- 4 DIRECT EXAMINATION (cont'd)
- 5 BY MS. FABRIZIO:
- Q. Mr. Iqbal, what is your overall impression of the Northern resource planning process? I believe you're still on mute, Mr. Iqbal.
- 9 (Igbal) Overall impression of the Company's Α. IRP, I would say they prepared a 10 11 well-organized and structured, well-documented plan. And they have showed a 12 clear understanding of the planning process 13 and the overall goal of why we do IRP. 14 15 issue, they analyze it and analyze completely 16 and conclusion arrives after examining 17 alternatives and with adequate support. example, there was a discussion about what is 18 19 normal weather. In New Hampshire we are 20 using 30 years for a long time. But recent 21 years, people are talking about that 30 years 22 is too long because of climate change and 23 other impact. And Northern did a very good 24 job of that. They analyzed all these options

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and concluded that, although there are some concern about climate change, that 30 years' weather normalization is still valid for Northern's purpose, particularly in New Hampshire.

And alternatively, they did a very good job of analyzing the alternative resources with a clear understanding of planning horizon, system demand and resource type.

It is important to understand why we do this exercise and why it is five years. The planning -- there is a common misunderstanding of planning horizon and the contract duration aspect, that sometimes these two are combined together and used as the same. But that's not true, because one contract might be 15 or 20 years, but planning horizon could be 5 years. Northern really understood that concept. And although a recent contract, the contract duration is 15 years, but they meet their immediate demand in four years, three to four And so the short-term and long-term goals are identified, and mix of these are

also discussed properly. And limitation on their resource availability and options is also discussed clearly. And I would say the planning process is a reasonable expectation for future supply needs and standard demand forecast without any unsupported out-of-model adjustment. That is important. Sometimes we find that some of the out-of-model adjustments might look reasonable. But if it is not supported with analysis, then it is not -- it should not be included in any forecasting.

So I said that the Company utilizes an elaborate analytic framework to inform its portfolio decisions regarding adequacy of its portfolio and preparedness of potentially available incremental resources to meet its identified resource needs.

And Company take a very good approach.

I think this is unique to Northern. I
haven't seen that before in other companies,
not only in New Hampshire, but other
companies, particularly when they try to -we always talk about the balance between cost

1	and planning period and how to optimize
2	those. And Company did a very good job. And
3	they mention it in their resource planning,
4	that Northern's long-term resource data are
5	well-sized to satisfy identified resource
6	needs and provide for considerable
7	utilization as soon as it is brought into
8	service. I think that is very important.
9	That's what goes back to that planning
10	horizon and contract period, that ultimately
11	we are contracting for 15 years doesn't mean
12	that we should be covering our needs for 15
13	years, end of 15 years. Sometimes that is
14	automatic (indecipherable) in our mind. We
15	are contracting for 15 years. Why don't we
16	meet the need for 15 years? But that is
17	usually, most of the time, is not
18	cost-effective for the customers because they
19	will be carrying capacity or demand of those
20	resources for the duration of the time, but
21	they will use that at end of the period. So
22	I find it very interesting and very
23	(undecipherable). I find the Company to take
24	that approach, that they are looking at how

we are going to use this new source when it is in service; are we going to sit on this for a long period of time, and the ratepayers are paying for it for a long period of time without utilizing it?

So these type of things, that's why I said that I appreciate what Company did and hope they keep doing it in the future.

- Q. Thank you, Mr. Iqbal. Did you participate in the settlement discussions that resulted in the settlement agreement that had been premarked today as Exhibit 7?
- 13 A. (Iqbal) Yes, I did.

- Q. Thank you. And what concerns did you have regarding Northern's plan and process when you prepared your testimony, and how does the settlement agreement address those concerns?
- A. (Iqbal) As discussed in my testimony, the statutory requirement requiring utilities to assess the environmental, economic and health-related impacts, which are new for gas utilities, as Mr. Chattopadhyay and Mr. Furino also talked about it, those are new for gas utilities. And that is new for all

of us. I believe from our perspective the
revised plan is responsive to this statutory
requirement, but it is subject to
interpretation in the absence of clear
guidelines. So what I understand and Staff
understand, what OCA understand, maybe some
other parties understand what it should be,
that's up to our interpretation. The parties
in this docket will have the opportunity to
work with each other and with other
interested parties in the working group to
address the issue of how gas utilities can
meet the new statutory expectation and
develop a common understanding of that, so in
future there will be no ambiguity among the
parties what is expected. And that will help
all of us. And I would say that was only
concern I expressed in my testimony. And the
settlement agreement actually addressed that
adequately.
Thank you. And based on your comments just
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Q. Thank you. And based on your comments just now, as well as your review of Northern's plan and the settlement presented today, do you believe the plan adequately addresses the

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1		relevant statutory requirements as directed
2		by Commission Order No. 26,027, which
3		approved Northern's prior LCIRP?
4	A.	(Iqbal) Yes, as I said in my previous
5		response and in my testimony. Yes, from
6		our we believe that the revised plan meets
7		those requirements adequately.
8	Q.	Thank you, Mr. Iqbal.
9		MS. FABRIZIO: I have no further
10		questions for Mr. Iqbal at this time.
11		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank
12		you.
13		Do the parties intend to have
14		additional cross, or are we going straight to
15		the Commissioners?
16		MR. TAYLOR: I have no cross for
17		the OCA or Staff witnesses.
18		MS. SHUTE: I have no cross.
19		MS. FABRIZIO: And Staff has no
20		cross. Thank you.
21		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay.
22		Commissioner Bailey.
23		COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Thank you.
24		

- 1 INTERROGATORIES BY COMMISSIONERS:
- 2 BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:
- 3 Q. Mr. Furino, are you confident that Northern
- will have the supply it needs to meet the
- 5 peak demand whenever it occurs?
- 6 A. (Furino) Well, as we explained in the plan,
- 7 the Company has a multi-year peaking supply
- 8 arrangement in place for the next several
- years. At some point that's going to need to
- 10 be replaced either with a similar resource or
- 11 perhaps a different resource that will
- 12 provide that peaking supply.
- 13 Q. And you expect to do that through liquid
- 14 natural gas?
- 15 A. (Furino) That's one option that the Company
- is exploring, yes.
- 17 Q. And does the peaking supply need to be
- addressed before the next five years?
- 19 A. (Furino) I would say it would, yes.
- 20 Q. So when will you have to figure out the
- 21 solution for that? By when?
- 22 A. (Furino) First of all, to speak first about
- the timing of the Company's next IRP filing,
- so the Company filed in June of 2019, would

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typically file three years later, which would be June of 2022. What we've requested in the settlement agreement is to provide the working group recommendations in June of 2021, and then, you know, the IRP be due a year after the Commission's decision on those guidelines, or those recommendations. would anticipate filing our next IRP sometime perhaps in late 2022. But as far as a five-year, you know, time frame, that puts that into perspective. As far as, you know, the end of our current peaking supply, that would need to be replaced for I believe the 2024-2025 winter. So, well in advance of that we would have to make some decision. \mathbf{If} it ends up being a long-term resource, we would bring that to the Commission for their review and approval. If it ends up being a delivered supply resource for, you know, several years, but not a long-term commitment, the Company would, you know, look to enter into that without bringing that to the Commission. With respect to the guidance that you're Q.

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hoping to get from the Commission after your working group relating to environmental and health impact and non-gas alternatives, is it possible that one of the solutions is going to be for you to reduce demand so that it's significant enough to reduce the peak?

- A. (Furino) I think the magnitude of the unmet peak demand relative to, you know, the long-term portfolio is so great that I don't believe, you know, a demand/response approach would be sufficient for the entire piece.

 The question is whether it can be part of the solution. And that's certainly something that we would explore.
- Q. Do you think that the statute is -- the policy behind the statute is suggesting that you do that, that you eliminate gas demand significantly?
- A. (Furino) Well, I mean, I read the statute as, you know, directing the Company to seek the most effective resource while considering all the impacts. So, you know, in addition to traditional metrics that we would look at, such as cost or liability, you know, we're

now trying to also, relative to the statutory requirement, assess the impact on the environment, you know, what are the options available. But I don't think the statute is directing us to not provide sufficient supply. And I think that's sort of where we are. Among the resources that meet the demand that we have from our customers, you know, what are the most effective, including environmental considerations.

- Q. So you think that this -- you can make your plan effectively address the statutory requirements?
- A. (Furino) Yes, we believe that.

You know, as to my prior comment on the capability of demand response, I mean, first of all, you know, the Company's portfolio, assuming all of the current portfolio, you know, stays in place and all the contracted incremental capacity goes into service, you know, the Company would have approximately 100,000 decatherms a day of capacity on their contract. And our peak day is approximately 150,000. So, you know, on an accrual basis

we have very good coverage, as reflected in the filing. But during, you know, the peak period, and certainly on our peak day, you know, we have one third of our capacity requirement that currently is being met with short-term resources. And that's the concern. And so demand response seems to me unlikely to cut away one third of the Company's peak day requirement.

- 10 Q. Mr. Iqbal or Dr. Chattopadhyay, do you have
 11 anything to add about what kind of guidance
 12 you are expecting the Commission to provide
 13 and whether the statute is either
 14 inapplicable slightly to gas companies or
 15 there's a way to deal with it? Dr.
 16 Chattopadhyay.
 - A. (Chattopadhyay) I think one of the reasons why we want to have this working group is to come to a common understanding of what (connectivity issue) interpret the statute. So personally, I don't have the knowledge bandwidth to sort of talk about what kind of demand response resources might help. But certainly we will be exploring those.

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I would, however, point out that I agree with what was previously mentioned by Mr. Furino, that given specifically the situation with Northern utilities, they rely on, you know, a big chunk. They rely on a big chunk of short-term supplies to meet their peaking needs. And I, at this point, without having gone through further analysis, I would be concluding that it would be very unlikely that that can be met through just demand response. Of course there are other considerations. So it's a matter of interpretation: What do we mean by environmental impacts? And while there is some guidance in the statute, again, as OCA, we want to have a more vigorous discussion and help the parties, and more importantly the utility, to come up with something that we can then all support and provide that to the Commission for its consideration in terms of what kind of guidance we think might help. So we are at this point also, you know, in the dark, really, I mean in some sense. Thank you. Q.

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Mr. Iqbal.

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A. (Iqbal) I agree what Mr. Chattopadhyay just said, and I would add one thing, that it is very difficult for anyone to prescribe something without knowing the context and the situation of the Company. I give you an example.

Like Northern, for Northern IRP, they are talking about incremental growth and incremental capacity acquiry [sic]. And everybody understand, like Mr. Chattopadhyay just mentioned, and Mr. Furino also mentioned that, that they are relying on their supply. Almost 43 percent of their supply currently is delivered supply. So they will be looking for opportunity to buy new resources, which will reduce the cost. We all know that delivered supply are short term and usually costlier. So I agree that Northern has very limited option to reduce their usage, the customer usage, from current level to downwards. It's almost impossible. But what they can do, the growth per customer basis or some other way, growth per customer usage

might be reduced by energy efficiency and other resources, other demand response activities.

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But the point I was trying to make, that each company has different situation they have to address. Northern is trying to move from short-term contract towards a long-term and less costly contract. There is not much difference environmentally or health-wise if you think that way. But if another company come up with a big project which has lots of environmental and health impact, then if it is too prescriptive, what we are looking for -- I'm not looking for any prescriptive ideas from the Commission. But I'm looking for guidance which gives us, gives each utilities to decide what to do about -- what to do regarding the health and environmental aspects of their resource acquisition strategy. A bigger project has more elaborate environmental and economic and health impact. But the smaller steps Northern is taking might not need that level of details.

1	So this is the struggle we are having at
2	this moment. That's why one of the reasons
3	we are talking about only Northern's the
4	working group working with Northern. All
5	other utilities is dealing with IRP-related
6	issues we are dealing with. So we should be
7	including all utilities in New Hampshire
8	because it will be more general guidelines.
9	But we understand that general guidelines
10	might be not right in this situation because
11	each company has its own reality. That's why
12	we thought it is better to deal with company
13	by company and use this working group to
14	understand to create common understanding
15	what is expected from IRP for that particular
16	company. If it is some electrical utility or
17	it's another gas company, their situation
18	might be totally different and requires
19	different level of environmental and health
20	assessment. So that's the only thing I add
21	to what is already said.
22	COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay.
23	Thank you. I think that's all I have.
24	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Commissioner

1 Giaimo.

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2 BY COMMISSIONER GIAIMO:

- Q. Good morning. I guess I have a question. If
 the latest version was in February,
 pre-COVID, would the plans change if they are
 rerun in the new environment? I'm
 particularly looking at the two percent, the
 one and a half to two percent annual growth
 forecast. Is that still accurate?
- (Furino) Commissioner Giaimo, great question. Α. You know, the Company I think has to be patient and see just how things evolve a little bit. You know, we also, in addition to what we've been experiencing in the last three to four months with the COVID pandemic situation and associated business closures which has impacted our actual delivered demands, that type of thing, we also had just come off a very warm winter. Very, very warm winter. And so I think we'll want to be seeing, you know, how does our throughput look in the next winter. You know, I think at some point we'll be moving beyond the COVID-19 situation. There will be a vaccine

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1	and there will be what have you. But what's
2	not clear is, you know, what remnants of what
3	we're doing, for example, right now by having
4	a video hearing, you know, how that's going
5	to impact the utilization of commercial real
6	estate, for example, you know, things like
7	that. So I think that, you know, as we look
8	forward, I think our process will be the
9	same. You know, I think it remains to be
10	seen, you know, how material the impacts
11	on you know, what customers end up doing
12	and then consequently how it impacts or
13	resource decisions.
14	COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Madam
15	Chair
16	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: I'm sorry,
17	Commissioner Giaimo.
18	COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: We have a
19	request from Mr. Iqbal. Madam Chair, is that
20	okay to recognize Mr. Iqbal?
21	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Absolutely.
22	You can recognize anyone you want.
23	Mr. Iqbal, yes, you're off
24	mute now.

- A. (Iqbal) On that point, I would add one thing, that this is a five-year plan. But Company has to do their yearly plan, too, on cost of gas and other things. So we understand Commissioner concern about COVID. Those will be reflected in the annual plan.
- BY COMMISSIONER GIAIMO:

Q. That sounds great.

Looking at the settlement agreement, do
we know who specifically -- is it just the
Company and the parties involved in this
docket that will be part of the work group?
Are you going to expand it? Is there general
consensus within the settling parties as to
who will be in the working group?

A. (Furino) I will start and say that my understanding is it will be the settling parties and that the settling parties will begin by defining a scope, scope of issues, scope of work. And as part of that, we'll identify whether there's issues that are raised that are beyond the technical expertise of the settling parties. And if that's the case, we could look for a

consultant or an advisor to further inform
the group. That's my understanding.

- Q. And is the Company comfortable with what I would visualize as a nine-month working group time frame before the next -- before the recommendation would be due? You know, I visualize it as, you know, if an order came out in the next month or two, that it would still be just nine months to get something out. Is that okay?
 - A. (Furino) You know, given what we know today,

 I think that is reasonable. And, you know,

 we'll see where that scope takes us, any

 subsequent engagements, where those take us

 and certainly report back. But as a starting

 point, I think that is sufficient.
 - Q. Okay. One of the identified purposes of the work group, according to the settlement, is that the work group would specifically work on the statutory interpretations of 387 -- I'm sorry -- 378:37 through 40.

Has research been done by the Company or others as to what they think the legislative intent is? And if there's no understanding

- as to the legislative intent, would there be
 any desire to go back to the legislature and
 say what did you mean by this? I guess I
 would hope the Company could answer first and
 then Mr. Igbal.
- (Furino) Sure. And this is -- I don't have 6 Α. 7 any specific guidance, you know, of the 8 legislative process, as far as what went into the statute. What I have is really my own 9 interpretation. But certainly the settling 10 11 parties wanted to, you know, review that in more detail. As I think I mentioned earlier, 12 my view is that it instructs the Company to, 13 14 while it's making decisions, resource 15 decisions, to consider a broader set of 16 impacts on customers in our local environment 17 when making those commitments.
 - Q. And Mr. Furino, before we turn to Mr. Iqbal, your interpretation would be that the legislature -- that the statute itself does not implicitly state that the Company should reduce gas consumption in its service territory.

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A. (Furino) I guess I'd have to -- (connectivity

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issue)
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                (Court Reporter interrupts.)
                         CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Can we pause
3
         for a moment? Ms. Robidas can't hear you.
4
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                         MR. FURINO:
                                      Okay.
                                             Is
         everyone -- am I coming through okay?
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                         CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: You are now.
8
         We lost Mr. Chattopadhyay, though. Let's go
         off the record a minute.
9
                (Pause in proceedings)
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11
                         CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
                                             Back on the
                  He was answering a question I think.
12
         record.
                         Mr. Taylor, go ahead.
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14
                                      This is Pat Taylor
                         MR. TAYLOR:
15
         from Unitil. I just wanted to pipe up, if I
         may, because, you know, Mr. Furino's being
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         asked to answer questions about statutory
         interpretation. And I just wanted to --
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         because I think this probably falls more to me
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         than Mr. Furino, the question of has any sort
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         of legislative intent been done. And I will
22
         confess that it's been over a year now since we
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         first entered into the process of developing
         our IRP. And so, you know, as of today I can't
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recall specifically if we did what you would consider to be a legislative intent research, where we would go into some of the records of the legislature.

As for whether, you know, we would go back to the legislature, I don't know that that's something we've discussed at this point for them to clarify their intent when they passed this statute. So I think it's an interesting point and an interesting question, but I did want to answer Commissioner Giaimo's question directly as to whether we had done a legislative intent. And candidly, I think we'd have to go back and look through our records to see if we had done that. But, you know, with legislative intent, they can sometimes be fruitful and sometimes not. (ct) So, you know, we will certainly look into that if we haven't done so already.

COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Mr.

Taylor, that's a perfect answer to my question.

I appreciate it. And Mr. Furino's off the

hook. He doesn't have to opine any further.

BY COMMISSIONER GIAIMO:

Q. I had one question about the Monte Carlo analysis. The settlement seems to suggest that the Company might have at one time been resistant and now seems not to be resistant to doing a Monte Carlo-like analysis. Do I have that right?

(Connectivity issues)

A. (Furino) Okay? We were just experiencing a little static there. But if you can hear me, I'll proceed.

and really the context is in trying to establish a distribution of weather data. You know, currently the Company applies a normal distribution. And, you know, the question is does that remain appropriate. So a document that was filed we provided to the parties, and I believe it was part of -- it became an attachment to the OCA's testimony, so it's in the record, which is an audit that was conducted of our gas supply management functions at the direction of the Maine Public Utilities Commission. And that was

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the audit report from Liberty Consultants. And in that report, one of the items was a possible suggestion for the Company to begin to explore or pursue a Monte Carlo analysis in trying to establish that distribution. So the Company hasn't had any resistance to that. We just didn't view it as -initially, if you heard -- if you see any discord there or notes of discord, we just didn't view it as, you know, part of an inquiry that needed to be part of the settlement itself. But given the suggestion, the Company has committed to explore that in response to the audit recommendation in the first instance. And so when I say we're willing to share that with the group, that's certainly -- or the working group that gets established, that's something that we would already be undertaking. Thank you, Mr. Furino. **Q.** I just want to make sure. Mr. Igbal,

I just want to make sure. Mr. Iqbal, you haven't had your hand up, and I didn't want to lose track of the fact that you did have something to say. Are you okay now

or --

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(Iqbal) Yeah. What I wanted to say, and I'm not going into the legal matters, as an analyst, how I look at it, that I think there are two layers of your question. One is that whether the Northern should be expanding, getting more customers, or should it be the customers reducing their usage. two different questions, that if Commission wants Northern to expand, get more customers, by that reducing overall gas uses in New Hampshire, that is one way to look at it. But then question becomes that, okay, what are the alternatives? Is it a good idea to move from oil heating to natural gas heating, all these other aspect that we have to deal That's one way to look at it.

The other way to look at is that whether Company try to reduce the per customer or (indecipherable) in current or future customer base. That will give us totally different answer to the question of legislative intent. Okay. Are you trying to reduce the overall greenhouse gas impact or

some other Clean Air Act, all these things?

So what I am trying to say, the answer would depend on what question we are asking. And that is also struggle we have, that what question are the legislative branches asking us to look at. That should be -- there could be other way to look at it. But these are the two example. And these two example give you totally different answer to that question.

So as I said it before, that it should not be too prescriptive, that, hey, you have to look at all these things, but at least guideline of what you should be looking at.

Are you trying to say that reduce per capita usage or reduce overall usage? So those type of things, that big-picture ideas we are expecting from the Commission.

Q. Mr. Iqbal, while your mic's live, I guess I'd like to ask you a question.

You note in your testimony that the
Company selected a planning basis which
resulted in a probability, and you used the
word of "only about 2.5 percent," and that

- the selected value would be exceeded in
- 2 projected years. Is it your opinion that
- 3 that criteria is too low? Is it too
- 4 aggressive? I know, for example,
- 5 transmission planning generally goes at a
- 6 90/10 or a 10 percent probability. Is a
- 7 2-1/2 percent probability a standard which
- 8 you have actually issues with?
- 9 A. (Iqbal) No. I think that's almost standard
- in IRP studies.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. (Iqbal) So Company is using a standard
- approach.
- 14 Q. And I do understand that, and I understand
- 15 that's a standard approach. I was just
- 16 wondering if you think the standard in
- 17 general may be too aggressive. And it sounds
- 18 like you're saying no.
- 19 A. (Iqbal) I think that depends on the planning
- 20 horizon we are talking about. The five
- 21 years' planning horizon actually effectively
- is two to three years planning horizon for
- the companies in New Hampshire. So for three
- to five years' planning horizon, I think that

standard is fine.

Q. Okay. Thank you. Just about done. I think
I have one question for the Consumer
Advocate, but I also have a comment.

Mr. Chattopadhyay, I appreciate your testimony. In a way, it actually enlightened me to many of the challenges the Company would have with factoring in environmental challenges. You know, if you increase energy efficiency -- if you increase efficiency and increase demand, it might create more electrification, which might cause different generation -- the need for generation to turn on and use gas. So your testimony helped me further understand and appreciate how complex it is. So thank you for that.

But I'm going to turn to the last page of your testimony and just ask you to comment on it. And I'm on Page 11, starting at Line 9, where it says, "There may be opportunities for the Company to better manage its portfolio by optimizing the use of newly available pipeline capacity in conjunction with new LNG based on storage

- capacity. The OCA would encourage the
 Company to explore those opportunities."
- A. (Chattopadhyay) Can you just give me 30 seconds? I'm try to... so you are at Page 11.
- 6 Q. Yes.
- 7 A. (Chattopadhyay) Yeah, and line number?
- 8 O. Nine.
- 9 A. (Chattopadhyay) Nine. Yeah, go ahead.
- 10 Sorry. I had to reboot everything so I'm
- getting it on the screen here. Yeah, go
- 12 ahead.

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- 13 Q. I certainly appreciate that.
- My question to you is, and maybe you can
 comment a little more, in that in it you
 talked about optimizing new capacity
 utilizing LNG and storage. And I'm
 wondering, is it your suggestion that that
 would be layered on top of existing legacy
- 21 retiring contracts? Would it be a
- 22 combination of the two? It's a very
- interesting comment that I was hoping you
- 24 might comment on a little more.

contracts? Would it be used to replace

1	Α.	(Chattopadhyay) The way I was looking at it
2		was when you see the long-term contracts, the
3		recent ones that the Company is for
4		example, today Mr. Furino talked about the
5		pending contract. Something like that for
6		like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are
7		going to be very useful in winter. But
8		you're getting it even in summer. So for
9		summer, if you're getting those resources, it
10		might be helpful to have an LNG facility
11		somewhere and be able to store that. So you
12		can actually reduce the use of short-term,
13		you know, peaking resources by replacing them
14		by the gas that you have saved in the LNG
15		tank. So I was really thinking in those
16		terms. And it stems from the report that the
17		Company had shared with us and I have that
18		in my testimony which Liberty Consultants
19		had done. Take a look at it. That is one of
20		the aspects that the consultants had raised.
21		And especially given the situation with this
22		company, that is a at the outset, it
23		appears to be an attractive option. So, you
24		know, that's what I was trying to indicate,

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1	that there are ways to also use the existing
2	capacities or the pending ones to have LNG be
3	part of the story and give a better solution
4	to the ratepayers. So that is a lower cost
5	option.
6	COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Madam
7	Chair, those are the only questions I have. I
8	thank the witnesses and turn it back to you.
9	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.
10	Thank you. I just have one question left.
11	BY CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
12	Q. Mr. Iqbal had testified that the 30-year
13	weather norm has been used for a long time in
14	New Hampshire. But the Company looked at all
15	of the options and concluded that it's still
16	valued for purposes of New Hampshire. Could
17	someone explain why that conclusion was
18	reached?
19	A. (Furino) Excuse me. Yes. Thank you for the
20	question. You know, first of all, I wanted
21	to point out that in the filing the Company
22	provided a table, which is available in
23	Exhibit 3 at Bates Page 85.
24	In any case, this table presents the

weather histories that the utilities in the
region use and also the planning standards
that they use. And oftentimes it's the
design day planning standard that drives
capacity commitments. And in this table
we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas
Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the
Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty
Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as
our affiliate in Northern Utilities. And
really what we show in this table is that we
have selected or there's no there's
very few parties using anything like a
shorter period of history and/or combined
with a planning standard that's as low as
ours. So I just want to point that out. I
think that people think about the wording
that we've seen over the last several
decades, and we've seen it as we've gone
through time, as being the only part of the
equation. But there's also the planning
standard itself that plays largely into it.
So some utilities are planning to a standard
of 1 in 50-year occurrence; whereas, Northern

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is planning to a 1 in 30-year occurrence. As to the research, I'm not seeing it at the moment, but I know we filed it.

But the general conclusion that Mr. Iqbal was referring to was a series of climate data research that we conducted and provided. And what we were showing and seeing is that, in New Hampshire, for the last three decades, complete decades, there has been no reduction in the heating degree days that we've seen. And so that's sort of the primary conclusion that suggests that 30 years is still appropriate. Now, we have seen warming in the Maine data, but that's begun to stabilize as well. And the decrease -- you know, the escalation of warming, I guess, if that makes sense, has begun to slow in Maine as well. So those factors are what's sort of embodied in the data that we present in the resource plan.

Q. Thank you for that.

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CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Do any of the parties have redirect they'd like to ask?

[No verbal response]

1	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay.
2	Seeing none, before we sum up then, we'll
3	strike the I.D. on Exhibits 1 through 7 without
4	objection and admit them as full exhibits.
5	Is there anything else we need
6	to do before the parties sum up?
7	MS. FABRIZIO: Chairwoman
8	Martin, I think I neglected to confirm my
9	location. I am in my office at the Commission
LO	building, and no one has been here for the
L1	duration of this hearing.
L2	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you.
L3	I assumed you were from the background.
L4	Okay. If there's nothing
L5	else, let's start with Ms. Shute.
L6	MS. SHUTE: Thank you. The
L7	Office of Consumer Advocate supports the
L8	settlement agreement and the adequacy of the
L9	LCIRP submitted under the current guidance. We
20	appreciate the willingness of the Company to
21	work with the parties to evaluate whether there
22	are additional ways to incorporate the
23	statutory requirements of RSA 378:37 through 40
24	for environmental, economic and health-related

impacts. We're especially keen to include in those discussions further explorations of those environmental impacts of traditional resources and potential options for non-gas and non-pipeline alternatives. We do believe that the working group will result in valuable recommendations for the Commission to consider in developing any future guidance for future LCIRPs under 378:37 to 40.

So for the reasons outlined above, we respectfully recommend that the Commission approve this settlement agreement as proposed. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you.

Ms. Fabrizio.

MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you. Staff also recommends approval of Northern's revised Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan, as well as the settlement entered into by Northern, the Office of the Consumer Advocate and Staff as presented today. Staff believes that Northern has prepared a well-reasoned and well-supported plan that meets the applicable requirements of RSA 378. The Company's plan is based on a

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reasonable forecast of future demand in its service area and includes a balanced array of supply options and demand site energy programs. It includes a reasonable assessment of system requirements at this time, as well as utility obligations under evolving economic and environmental regulations and policies, all while taking into account potential impacts on ratepayers. Staff considers Northern's approach to resource planning to be sound in terms of gas distribution system planning in New Hampshire. Staff also supports approval of the settlement presented today which proposes an appropriate avenue to explore ways for Northern to meet evolving requirements under state law and policy, while carefully considering ratepayer interests. Staff therefore proposes that

the Commission approve the plan and the settlement before it today and initiate a separate proceeding for interested parties to investigate the issues and options relevant to gas utilities in New Hampshire under RSA 378.

1	Staff thanks both the Company
2	and the OCA for their cooperative efforts in
3	this proceeding, and the Commission for its
4	consideration of the results of those
5	efforts. Thank you.
6	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you.
7	Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor,
8	you're on mute.
9	MR. TAYLOR: Thanks. I'd like
10	to thank the Commission for its time and the
11	Commissioner's thoughtful questions today,
12	particularly under the circumstances. I do
13	look forward to seeing you all again in person
14	in the hearing room. I'd also like to thank
15	Commission Staff and the Office of the Consumer
16	Advocate for their effort and their input in
17	this docket.
18	The settlement agreement
19	before the Commission is very much the
20	product of a collaborative effort. And so
21	like the Staff and the Consumer Advocate, the
22	Company recommends that the Commission
23	approve the settlement in the Company's Least
24	Cost IRP. The Company's Least Cost IRP as

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revised is consistent with and adequate under the statutory requirements of RSA 378, and we do think it should be approved by the Commission.

As the Commission's aware, this is the first IRP in which the Company has addressed the statutory requirements in RSA 378:37 through 40, which require, among many other things, an assessment of demand site energy management programs. The Company invested a significant amount of effort in addressing these statutory requirements. believe that the LCIRP meets the Commission's directive from its order in DG 15-033 to provide more detailed evidence of the reliability, environmental, economic and health-related impacts of the Company's portfolio. We believe that our planning processes result in the adoption of least cost options that meet the standards articulated in RSA 378:39. But nevertheless, the Company is committed to continuing this work and looks forward to collaborating with the Staff and the Consumer Advocate in the

		/ _
1	working group process to develop potential	
2	additional recommendations regarding the	
3	statutory requirements.	
4	And so with that, I thank you	
5	for your time. We do recommend that the	
6	settlement agreement and the IRP be accepted	
7	and approved by the Commission. Thanks.	
8	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.	
9	Well, thank you, everyone. We very much	
LO	appreciate all the efforts that went into	
L1	reaching a settlement in this case. We will	
L2	take the matter under advisement. And we are	
L3	done. Thank you.	
L 4	And thank you, Mr. Wind and	
L5	Ms. Robidas, for your help today.	
L6	(Hearing concluded at 11:41 a.m.)	
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(5.14.17	63:8	19:8	30 (5)	
65:14,17				
Water (3)	wondering (2)	11 (2)	32:20,21;33:2;	
Water (3) 9:6,9;17:23	wondering (2) 59:16;61:18	60:19;61:5	61:3;65:12	
Water (3) 9:6,9;17:23 waving (1)	wondering (2) 59:16;61:18 word (1)		61:3;65:12 30-year (2)	
Water (3) 9:6,9;17:23 waving (1) 5:21	wondering (2) 59:16;61:18 word (1) 58:24	60:19;61:5	61:3;65:12 30-year (2) 63:12;65:1	
Water (3) 9:6,9;17:23 waving (1)	wondering (2) 59:16;61:18 word (1)	60:19;61:5 11:41 (1)	61:3;65:12 30-year (2)	
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In Re:

*DG 19-126 NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.*2019-2024 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

HEARING ON SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT June 11, 2020

SUSAN J. ROBIDAS, N.H. LCR 30 James Pollock Drive Manchester, New Hampshire 03102 (603) 540-2083 shortrptr@comcast.net

Original File 061120 DG19-126 hrg.txt

Min-U-Script® with Word Index

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	Page 1		Page 3
1	STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE	1	EXHIBITS
2	PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	2	
3		3	EXHIBIT NO. PAGE NO.
4 5	June 11, 2020 - 10:05 a.m. [Remote hearing conducted via Webex]	4 5	1 CONFIDENTIAL VERSION Premarked Northern Utilities 2019-2024 IRP filed 7/22/19
6 7	RE: DG 19-126	6 7	2 REDACTED VERSION Premarked Northern Utilities 2019-2024 IRP
8	NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC. 2019-2024 IRP (Hearing on Settlement Agreement)	8	filed 7/22/19 3 CONFIDENTIAL VERSION Premarked Northern Utilities 2019-2024
9 10		9 10	Revised IRP filed 2/24/20 4 REDACTED VERSION Premarked
11 12	PRESENT: Chairwoman Dianne Martin, Presiding Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey Commissioner Michael S. Giaimo	11 12	Northern Utilities 2019-2024 Revised IRP filed 2/24/20 5 OCA Testimony of Dr. Pradip Premarked
13	Jody Carmody, Clerk Eric Wind, PUC Remote Hearing Host	13	Chattopadhyay and attachments filed 4/10/20
14 15	APPEARANCES: Reptg. Northern Utilities, Inc.	14 15	6 Staff Testimony of Al-Azad Iqbal Premarked and attachments filed 4/10/20
16	Patrick H. Taylor, Esq.	16	7 Settlement Agreement of the Premarked Parties filed 5/27/20
17	Rptg. Office of Consumer Advocate: Christa Shute, Esquire	17	
18	Reptg. PUC Staff: Lynn Fabrizio, Esq.	18	
19	• • •	19	
20		20	
21	Court Reporter: Susan J. Robidas, NH LCR No. 44	21	
23		23	
24		24	
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	Page 2		Page 4
1	INDEX	1	PROCEEDINGS
2		2	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Good
3	WITNESSES: ROBERT S. FURINO PRADIP CHATTOPADHYAY	3	morning, everyone. All right. We're here this
5	AL-AZAD IQBAL	4	morning in Docket DG 19-126 for a hearing
6		5	regarding the Northern Utilities, Inc. Petition
7	EXAMINATION PAGE	6	for Approval of its 2019 Least Cost Integrated
8	Direct Examination by Mr. Taylor 13	7	Resource Plan. A settlement agreement has been
9	Direct Examination by Ms. Shute 16	8	filed. I need to make some necessary findings
10	Direct Examination by Ms. Fabrizio 17	9	because we're doing this hearing remotely, so I'll do that now.
11	Direct Examination by Mr. Taylor cont'd 20	10 11	As Chairwoman of the Public
12	Direct Examination by Ms. Shute cont'd 28	12	Utilities Commission, I find that due to the
13	Direct Examination by Ms. Fabrizio cont'd) 32	13	state of emergency declared by the Governor
14		14	as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in
15	INTERROGATORIES BY COMMISSIONERS:	15	accordance with the Governor's Emergency
16	By Commissioner Bailey 39	16	Order No. 12, pursuant to Executive Order
17	By Commissioner Giaimo 48	17	2020-04, this public body is authorized to
18	By Chairwoman Martin 63	18	meet electronically. Please note that there
19		19	is no physical location to observe and listen
20	CLOSING STATEMENTS	20	contemporaneously to this hearing, which was
21	By Ms. Shute 66	21	authorized pursuant to the Governor's
22	By Ms. Fabrizio 67	22	Emergency Order. However, in accordance with
23 24	By Mr. Taylor 69	23 24	the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are utilizing Webex for this electronic
24		24	are dunizing wedex for this electronic
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}		{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}

			Julie 11, 2020
	Page 5		Page 7
1	hearing; all members of the Commission have	1	their presence, please also state where you
2	the ability to communicate contemporaneously	2	are located and if anyone else is with you.
3	during the hearing through this platform; and	3	My name's Dianne Martin. I'm
4	the public has access to contemporaneously	4	the Chairwoman of the Public Utilities
5	listen and, if necessary, participate. We	5	Commission. I am located at my home in
6	previously gave notice to the public of the	6	Deerfield, New Hampshire, and no one is in
7	necessary information for accessing the	7	the room with me.
8	hearing in the Order of Notice. If anybody	8	Commissioner Bailey.
9	has a problem during the hearing, please call	9	COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Good
10	(603)271-2431. In the event the public is	10	morning. I'm Commissioner Kathryn Bailey. I
11	unable to access the hearing, the hearing	11	am located at my home in Bow, New Hampshire,
12	will be adjourned and rescheduled.	12	and no one is with me.
13	Okay. Couple ground rules.	13	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Commissioner
14	You may have heard some of these already from	14	Giaimo.
15	Mr. Wind. First, if you're not talking,	15	COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Good
16	please be sure to mute yourself. It really	16	morning. Mike Giaimo. I am at the Commission
17	does help with the audio. If you need to be	17	Office, in my office by myself.
18	recognized for something other than an	18	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Let's
19	objection, please put your hand up. I will	19	take appearances from the parties, please.
20	do my best to recognize you as soon possible.	20	Mr. Taylor.
21	But feel free to start waving at me if I	21	MR. TAYLOR: Good morning. Can
22	don't see you. If you're making an	22	you hear me?
23	objection, feel free to speak that out at any	23	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Yes.
24	time. You don't need to wait to be	24	MR. TAYLOR: Good morning. This
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}		{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
	Page 6		Page 8
1		1	
1 2	recognized. For confidential information,	1 2	is Patrick Taylor, on behalf of Northern
2	recognized. For confidential information, please be careful not to talk about	2	is Patrick Taylor, on behalf of Northern Utilities, Inc. I am appearing from my home in
2	recognized. For confidential information, please be careful not to talk about confidential information inadvertently. If	2	is Patrick Taylor, on behalf of Northern Utilities, Inc. I am appearing from my home in Concord, New Hampshire, a stone's throw from
2 3 4	recognized. For confidential information, please be careful not to talk about confidential information inadvertently. If you can just point to the document and page	2 3 4	is Patrick Taylor, on behalf of Northern Utilities, Inc. I am appearing from my home in Concord, New Hampshire, a stone's throw from the Commission. With me today are Rob Furino,
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	Page 9		Page 11
1	Ms. Fabrizio.	1	extended to the revised filing as well. If,
2	MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you,	2	however, the Commission would like the
3	Chairwoman Martin. My name's Lynn Fabrizio.	3	Company to file a separate motion as a
4	I'm a staff attorney at the Commission. With	4	procedural matter, we're certainly willing to
5	me today will be Al-Azad Iqbal, utility analyst	5	do that.
6	with the Commission's Gas and Water Division.	6	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Let's
7	He will be testifying today. And also	7	take that in two parts. First, the request to
8	available as needed is Steve Frink, Director of the Gas and Water Division here at the	8	apply the confidential treatment to the revised
9		9	version of the plan. Is there any objection to that?
10	CHAIRWOMAN MARTING OF THE COMMON TO THE COMM	10	
11	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Do we have preliminary matters to address before we	11 12	[No verbal response] MS. FABRIZIO: Staff does not
12 13	swear in the witnesses?	13	object.
14	MR. TAYLOR: I just wanted to	14	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Ms. Shute?
15	raise one issue before the hearing today. The	15	MS. SHUTE: The OCA does not
16	Company submitted a motion for confidential	16	object.
17	treatment in connection with attachments to	17	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Then
18	four discovery responses that were submitted	18	I think we can grant that request now.
19	during the course of this proceeding. As the	19	As for the newly filed motion,
20	Commission knows, Commission Rule 203.08(d)	20	we won't rule on that right now, but we'll
21	permits respondents to submit confidential	21	issue or it will be part of the order that
22	materials in discovery accompanied by a	22	we issue from this hearing. But we will
23	statement that a motion will be filed at or	23	treat everything that is currently marked as
24	before the hearing in the matter. The Company	24	confidential as confidential during this
			· ·
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}		{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
	Page 10		Page 12
1	Page 10 submitted its discovery responses, accompanied	1	hearing.
1 2	submitted its discovery responses, accompanied by such a statement, and we filed a motion this	1 2	hearing. Yes, Ms. Shute.
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201	9-2024 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN		June 11, 2020
[WI	TNESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 13	[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 15
1	Seeing nothing, Ms. Robidas, would you mind	1 0.	And are there any corrections to these
2	swearing in the witnesses.	2	exhibits that are not already incorporated in
3	(WHEREUPON, ROBERT S. FURINO and	3	the revised IRP that you'd like to note on
4	AL-AZAD IQBAL were duly sworn and	4	the record today?
5	cautioned by the Court Reporter.)	5 A.	•
6	ROBERT S. FURINO, SWORN	6 Q.	•
7	AL-AZAD IQBAL, SWORN	7	exhibits true and accurate to the best of
8	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank	8	your knowledge and belief?
9	you, everyone. Mr. Taylor. Oh, you're on	_	(Furino) Yes.
10	mute.	10	MR. TAYLOR: I have no further
11	MR. TAYLOR: Thank you. So I'll	11	questions for Mr. Furino in the qualification.
12	start by doing the witness qualification for	12	I do have some direct for him. Given that
13	Mr. Furino.	13	we're doing this as a panel, do the Staff and
14	DIRECT EXAMINATION	14	the OCA want to do their witnesses now, or
	BY MR. TAYLOR:	15	should I proceed with my direct?
16	Q. Could you please give your name and position	16	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: What's the
17	with the Company.	17	preference of the parties?
	A. (Furino) Yes. Good morning. Robert S.	18	MS. FABRIZIO: Staff would
19	Furino, Director of Energy Contracts for	19	prefer to introduce our witness and then
20	Unitil Service Corp., who provides	20	proceed as a collective.
21	professional services to its affiliated	21	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Ms. Shute,
22	companies, including Northern Utilities.	22	is that okay with you? Ms. Shute?
23	Q. Mr. Furino, have you previously testified	23	MS. SHUTE: I was on mute. Yes.
24	before the Commission?	24	DIRECT EXAMINATION
	cerore the commission.		
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}		{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
[WI	TNESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 14	[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 16
1	A. (Furino) Yes, I have testified to the	1 B	Y MS. SHUTE:
2	Company's prior integrated resource plans	2 Q.	So, Dr. Chattopadhyay, could you please
3	that have been filed since Unitil acquired	3	introduce yourself and your position with the
4	Northern Utilities in 2008. Last year I	4	OCA.
5	testified to the Company's petition for	5 A.	(Chattopadhyay) Yes. My name is Pradip
6	preapproval of the (connectivity issue)	6	Chattopadhyay, and I'm the Assistant Consumer
7	(Court Reporter interrupts.)	7	Advocate.
8	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Excuse me.	8 Q.	And did you file testimony in this docket
9	Could you just hold up for a moment. The Court	9	that's been entered into the record as
10	Reporter couldn't hear you.	10	Exhibit 5, and was that testimony prepared by
11	A. (Furino) In support of the Company's petition	11	you or under your direction?
12	for preapproval of a pipeline contract as	12 A.	\ 1 3 3/
13	part of the Westbrook XPress Project.	13 Q.	Do you have any changes or corrections to
14	Q. Mr. Furino, hearing Exhibits 1 and 2 are the	14	your testimony?
15	Company's initially filed Least Cost	15 A.	(Chattopadhyay) Yes, I do. Line 18 of Bates
16	Integrated Resource Plan and appendices in	16	Page 007 should be corrected to replace
17	confidential and redacted versions,	17	"EnergyNorth" with "Northern Utilities." I
18	respectively. And Exhibits 3 and 4 are the	18	had inadvertently written EnergyNorth there
19	Company's revised Least Cost Integrated	19	while I meant Northern Utilities.
20	Resource Plan, also in confidential and	20 Q.	And do you adopt this testimony for this
21	redacted form. Were these were the IRP	21	proceeding?
22	and appendices prepared by you or under your	22 A.	(Chattopadhyay) I do.
23	direction?	23	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Excuse me.
23			
	A. (Furino) Yes, they were.	24	Ms. Shute, just to confirm for the record,

	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 17	ΓWΙ	TNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 19
[*******		[**.		
1	that's Exhibit 6; is that correct?	1		initial and revised LCIRP, premarked as
2	MS. FABRIZIO: I believe that's	2		confidential Exhibits 1 and 3?
3	Exhibit 5.			(Iqbal) Yes.
4	MS. SHUTE: Yes, I thought it		Q.	Have you previously testified before the
5	was Exhibit 5, but I will doublecheck.	5		Commission?
6	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: I'm			(Iqbal) Yes.
7	doublechecking, too. I just want to make sure	7	Q.	Did you prepare testimony filed on behalf of
8	we have it right. Yes, Exhibit 5. Sorry about	8		Staff on April 10th, marked as Exhibit 6 in
9	that.	9		this docket?
10	MS. SHUTE: Okay. I have a			(Iqbal) Yes.
11	couple direct questions that I will follow up			And are there any corrections to your
12	with at the appropriate time.	12		testimony that you would like to make for the
13	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank	13		record at this time?
14	you.		A.	(Iqbal) No.
15	Ms. Fabrizio.	15	Q.	Thank you.
16	MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you.	16		MS. FABRIZIO: The witness is
17	DIRECT EXAMINATION	17		available for questions.
	BY MS. FABRIZIO:	18		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Did anyone
19 Q		19		else just lose the video on Mr. Taylor? Mr.
20	state your full name for the record.	20		Taylor, are you there?
	. (Iqbal) My name is Al-Azad Iqbal.	21		[No verbal response]
	And what is your position at the Commission?	22		CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Mr. Taylor?
	. (Iqbal) I'm an analyst in gas, Water and Gas	23		Let's go off the record for a minute, Ms.
24	Division.	24		Robidas.
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}			{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
	(======================================			(50 10 120) [20111 112/111110] (50 11 2020)
[WITNE	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 18	[WI	TNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 20
	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 18			SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 20
1 Q	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 18 And in that capacity, were you the lead	1		Page 20 (Pause in proceedings.)
1 Q	Page 18 And in that capacity, were you the lead analyst responsible for reviewing Northern's	1 2		SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 20 (Pause in proceedings.) CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Ms.
1 Q 2 3	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 18 And in that capacity, were you the lead analyst responsible for reviewing Northern's LCIRP in this proceeding, premarked as	1 2 3		(Pause in proceedings.) CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Ms. Robidas, back on the record. Thank you.
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	24 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN			June 11, 2020
[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 21	[WI	TNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 23
1	forecast under design weather conditions and	1		We restated energy efficiency costs to remove
2	conversion of that demand forecast into the	2		participant costs. We updated our resource
3	Company's long-term planning load	3		options section on our resource impact
4	requirements. The IRP also describes the	4		summary, added some discussion there. And
5	Company's current portfolio of long-term	5		then lastly, we expanded and clarified our
6	assets and compares the supplies available	6		Qualitative Assessment category to more
7	from the portfolio to that long-term planning	7		generally state the environmental impact,
8	load requirement forecast in order to assess	8		economic development, and health and safety
9	its incremental resource needs, which is	9		aspects as part of our qualitative
10	something we refer to as the "resource	10		assessment.
11	balance."	11	Q.	Thank you. Mr. Furino, can you please give a
12	The IRP then goes on to address	12	•	brief overview of the settlement agreement
13	potential supply alternatives and the	13		among the Company, the Staff and the Office
14	Company's long-term resource decision-making	14		of Consumer Advocate?
15	process. This is the first IRP that the		A.	(Furino) Yes. Sure. First of all, we
16	Company has submitted to evaluate resources	16		appreciate the collaborative efforts of the
17	under the current framework set forth in RSA	17		Staff and the OCA in this docket, and
18	378:38 and 39. As part of that, the Company	18		certainly with the settlement.
19	added resource impact categories to be able	19		The settling parties recommend that the
20	to describe its current resource portfolio	20		Commission accept the 2019-2020 IRP as
21	and also evaluate its incremental supply	21		adequate pursuant to RSA 378:39. The parties
22	options in those categories.	22		also recommend establishing a working group
23	We also introduced an expanded planning	23		to discuss potential approaches to the
24	environment which describes the regulatory	24		recommendations regarding assessment of
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}			{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 22	[WI	TNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 24
1	framework in the two states where we serve	1		environmental, economic and health-related
2	customers, introduces some environmental	2		impact as required under RSA 378:37 to 40.
3	background that hadn't been in our prior	3		The scope of those discussions would include
4	integrated resource plans, and generally	4		exploration of various alternative resources,
5	provides updates as to our Retail Choice	5		whether revisions to Northern's future Least
6	Program and other operating environments.	6		whether revisions to rearrier is ruture Least
7	And we also added some comprehensive pipeline			Cost IRP planning processes are feasible and
8	And we also added some complementative piperine	7		
"	maps that actually show each system the	7 8		Cost IRP planning processes are feasible and
9				Cost IRP planning processes are feasible and practical, and what the cost and impact of
	maps that actually show each system the	8		Cost IRP planning processes are feasible and practical, and what the cost and impact of possible revisions to both Maine and New
9	maps that actually show each system the Company takes service from and tracing of the	8 9		Cost IRP planning processes are feasible and practical, and what the cost and impact of possible revisions to both Maine and New Hampshire would be. The settling parties
9 10	maps that actually show each system the Company takes service from and tracing of the specific capacity paths that we have service	8 9 10		Cost IRP planning processes are feasible and practical, and what the cost and impact of possible revisions to both Maine and New Hampshire would be. The settling parties recommend that the working group begin within
9 10 11	maps that actually show each system the Company takes service from and tracing of the specific capacity paths that we have service on.	8 9 10 11		Cost IRP planning processes are feasible and practical, and what the cost and impact of possible revisions to both Maine and New Hampshire would be. The settling parties recommend that the working group begin within three months of an order in this docket
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_0.0 _0	24 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN		June 11, 2020
[WITNE:	SSES: FURINO[CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 25	[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 27
1	group recommendations. The working group	1	filed in 2015, there was significant
2	would ultimately provide a report to the	2	uncertainty that was triggered by the design
3	Commission regarding whether and how	3	of the Maine delivery service terms and
	Northern's future IRPs would further	4	conditions because those terms and conditions
4			
5	incorporate assessments of environmental,	5	did not include capacity assignment at a
6	economic and health-related impact into our	6	hundred percent (connectivity issue)
7	least cost planning, including consideration	7	(Court Reporter interrupts.)
8	of alternative resources. Specifically, the	8 A.	(Furino) Did not include capacity assignment
9	working group recommendations would address	9	at a hundred percent of customer
10	three things: Statutory interpretation of	10	requirements. So as a consequence, in the
11	RSA 378:37 to 40, recommended criteria for	11	2015 IRP, the Company was faced with
12	evaluation of least cost resources to meet	12	uncertainty and presented three alternative
13	the applicable statutory requirements, and	13	planning load forecasts that reflected
14	the content and presentation of Northern's	14	different paradigms. Those issues have all
15	future IRP filings.	15	been resolved. The State of Maine our
16	Finally, Northern has been conducting an	16	Maine division now has 100 percent capacity
17	internal evaluation of Monte Carlo-based	17	assignment, similar to the New Hampshire
18	weather distribution which the settling	18	division. That was approved and became
19	parties had interest in. And Northern has	19	effective in November 2019. And so now the
20	agreed to provide its analysis and findings	20	Company is operating under very similar
21	with the working group.	21	capacity assignment regimes in both states.
22 Q.	Thank you, Mr. Furino. Have there been any	22	And in the current filing, we were able to
23	significant changes in the Company's resource	23	present a single planning load forecast. And
24	portfolio as presented in Chapter 6 of the	24	that's a great improvement from our
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}		{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
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[WITNE:	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 26	[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 28
[WITNE:	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 26 IRP since the IRP was filed?	1	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 28 perspective.
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1	IRP since the IRP was filed? (Furino) No changes. However, as the Commission's aware, the Company's WXP	1	perspective. Thank you. Is it your belief that the settlement agreement that's been presented to
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	124 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN	June 11, 202
WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 29	[WITNESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 3
1 B	Y MS. SHUTE:	1 As I've noted in my testimony, we wanted
	Dr. Chattopadhyay, could you please describe	to prompt the parties to work collaboratively
3	why you filed testimony in this docket.	3 in providing some recommendations to the
4 A.		4 Commission to help shape its guidance, to the
	evident from the OCA's testimony, our focus	
5		•
6	in this docket has been limited to sort of	6 future IRPs. The settlement allows us to
7	opining under Northern's IRPs going forward.	7 request the Commission to do that. While
8	As stated in my testimony, the OCA	8 traditional solutions will continue to be
9	predominantly wanted to prompt a process	9 considered, to the extent the new statutory
10	going forward wherein the stakeholders	requirements on environmental and health
11	develop some recommendations for the	impacts and non-gas alternatives require a
12	Commission's consideration to allow it to	different approach to future IRPs, the
13	provide guidance to the gas utility as to how	working group will endeavor collectively to
14	to internalize considerations of	come up with recommendations for the
15	environmental and health impacts, and perhaps	15 Commission's consideration.
16	accommodate non-gas alternatives like demand	We, as the OCA, would respectfully urge
17	response and load management efforts. Even	the Commission to approve this settlement to
18	as traditional resources are continued to be	allow that process to start later this year.
19	considered in the resource portfolio mix for	19 Q. Thank you.
20	the least cost integrated planning purpose,	MS. SHUTE: I have no further
21	the OCA filed its testimony in this docket	21 questions.
22	primarily to see whether we can reach	22 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Ms
23	agreement with the parties to enable us to	23 Fabrizio.
24	request the Commission allow us to proceed	24 MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you. I
		•
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 30	[WITNESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 32
1	with such a process. The parties agree that	1 have no questions at this time for either
1 2	with such a process. The parties agree that additional guidance from the Commission will	have no questions at this time for eitherNorthern or OCA witnesses. I will proceed
		2 Northern or OCA witnesses. I will proceed
2	additional guidance from the Commission will	Northern or OCA witnesses. I will proceed directly to Mr. Iqbal.
2 3 4	additional guidance from the Commission will be helpful going forward into the future IRPs.	Northern or OCA witnesses. I will proceeddirectly to Mr. Iqbal.
2 3 4 5 Q.	additional guidance from the Commission will be helpful going forward into the future IRPs. And did you participate in the development of	 Northern or OCA witnesses. I will proceed directly to Mr. Iqbal. DIRECT EXAMINATION (cont'd) BY MS. FABRIZIO:
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[WITN	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 33	IWITNE	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 35
1	and concluded that, although there are some	1	and planning period and how to optimize
2	concern about climate change, that 30 years'	2	those. And Company did a very good job. And
3	weather normalization is still valid for	3	they mention it in their resource planning,
4	Northern's purpose, particularly in New	4	that Northern's long-term resource data are
5	Hampshire.	5	well-sized to satisfy identified resource
6	And alternatively, they did a very good	6	needs and provide for considerable
7	job of analyzing the alternative resources	7	utilization as soon as it is brought into
8	with a clear understanding of planning	8	service. I think that is very important.
9	horizon, system demand and resource type.	9	That's what goes back to that planning
10	It is important to understand why we do	10	horizon and contract period, that ultimately
11	this exercise and why it is five years. The	11	we are contracting for 15 years doesn't mean
12	planning there is a common	12	that we should be covering our needs for 15
13	misunderstanding of planning horizon and the contract duration aspect, that sometimes	13 14	years, end of 15 years. Sometimes that is automatic (indecipherable) in our mind. We
14	these two are combined together and used as		are contracting for 15 years. Why don't we
15	the same. But that's not true, because one	15 16	meet the need for 15 years? But that is
16 17	contract might be 15 or 20 years, but	17	usually, most of the time, is not
18	planning horizon could be 5 years. And	18	cost-effective for the customers because they
19	Northern really understood that concept. And	19	will be carrying capacity or demand of those
20	although a recent contract, the contract	20	resources for the duration of the time, but
21	duration is 15 years, but they meet their	21	they will use that at end of the period. So
22	immediate demand in four years, three to four	22	I find it very interesting and very
23	years. And so the short-term and long-term	23	(undecipherable). I find the Company to take
24	goals are identified, and mix of these are	24	that approach, that they are looking at how
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}		{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
[WITN	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 34	[WITNE:	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 36
[WITN	also discussed properly. And limitation on	[WITNE:	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 36 we are going to use this new source when it
	also discussed properly. And limitation on their resource availability and options is		we are going to use this new source when it is in service; are we going to sit on this
1	also discussed properly. And limitation on their resource availability and options is also discussed clearly. And I would say the	1	we are going to use this new source when it is in service; are we going to sit on this for a long period of time, and the ratepayers
1 2	also discussed properly. And limitation on their resource availability and options is also discussed clearly. And I would say the planning process is a reasonable expectation	1 2	we are going to use this new source when it is in service; are we going to sit on this for a long period of time, and the ratepayers are paying for it for a long period of time
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1	of us. I believe from our perspective the	1	IN	NTERROGATORIES BY COMMISSIONERS:
2	revised plan is responsive to this statutory	2	B	Y COMMISSIONER BAILEY:
3	requirement, but it is subject to	3	Q.	Mr. Furino, are you confident that Northern
4	interpretation in the absence of clear	4	`	will have the supply it needs to meet the
5	guidelines. So what I understand and Staff	5		peak demand whenever it occurs?
6	understand, what OCA understand, maybe some		A.	(Furino) Well, as we explained in the plan,
7	other parties understand what it should be,	7	11.	the Company has a multi-year peaking supply
8	that's up to our interpretation. The parties	8		arrangement in place for the next several
9	in this docket will have the opportunity to	9		years. At some point that's going to need to
	work with each other and with other			be replaced either with a similar resource or
10		10		
11	interested parties in the working group to	11		perhaps a different resource that will
12	address the issue of how gas utilities can	12	0	provide that peaking supply.
13	meet the new statutory expectation and	13	Ų.	And you expect to do that through liquid
14	develop a common understanding of that, so in	14		natural gas?
15	future there will be no ambiguity among the	15	A.	(Furino) That's one option that the Company
16	parties what is expected. And that will help	16	_	is exploring, yes.
17	all of us. And I would say that was only	17	Q.	And does the peaking supply need to be
18	concern I expressed in my testimony. And the	18		addressed before the next five years?
19	settlement agreement actually addressed that	19	A.	(Furino) I would say it would, yes.
20	adequately.	20	Q.	So when will you have to figure out the
21 Q.	Thank you. And based on your comments just	21		solution for that? By when?
22	now, as well as your review of Northern's	22	A.	(Furino) First of all, to speak first about
23	plan and the settlement presented today, do	23		the timing of the Company's next IRP filing,
24	you believe the plan adequately addresses the	24		so the Company filed in June of 2019, would
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}			{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
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1	relevant statutory requirements as directed	1		typically file three years later, which would
2	by Commission Order No. 26,027, which	2		be June of 2022. What we've requested in the
3	approved Northern's prior LCIRP?	3		settlement agreement is to provide the
4 A.	**	4		working group recommendations in June of
	response and in my testimony. Yes, from			2021, and then, you know, the IRP be due a
5	our we believe that the revised plan meets	5		year after the Commission's decision on those
6	•	6		5
7	those requirements adequately.	7		guidelines, or those recommendations. So we
8 Q.	· -	8		would anticipate filing our next IRP sometime
9	MS. FABRIZIO: I have no further	9		perhaps in late 2022. But as far as a
10	questions for Mr. Iqbal at this time.	10		five-year, you know, time frame, that puts
11	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank	11		that into perspective. As far as, you know,
12	you.	12		the end of our current peaking supply, that
13	Do the parties intend to have	13		would need to be replaced for I believe the
14	additional cross, or are we going straight to	14		2024-2025 winter. So, well in advance of
15	the Commissioners?	15		that we would have to make some decision. If
16	MR. TAYLOR: I have no cross for	16		it ends up being a long-term resource, we
17	the OCA or Staff witnesses.	17		would bring that to the Commission for their
18	MS. SHUTE: I have no cross.	18		review and approval. If it ends up being a
19	MS. FABRIZIO: And Staff has no	19		delivered supply resource for, you know,
20	cross. Thank you.	20		several years, but not a long-term
21	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay.	21		commitment, the Company would, you know, look
22	Commissioner Bailey.	22		to enter into that without bringing that to
23	COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Thank you.	23		the Commission.
24	COLLINGUITER DITTELL 1. Indik you.	24	O.	With respect to the guidance that you're
			≺.	
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}			{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}

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1	hoping to get from the Commission after your	1	we have very good coverage, as reflected in
2	working group relating to environmental and	2	the filing. But during, you know, the peak
3	health impact and non-gas alternatives, is it	3	period, and certainly on our peak day, you
4	possible that one of the solutions is going	4	know, we have one third of our capacity
5	to be for you to reduce demand so that it's	5	requirement that currently is being met with
6	significant enough to reduce the peak?	6	short-term resources. And that's the
7 A.	(Furino) I think the magnitude of the unmet	7	concern. And so demand response seems to me
8	peak demand relative to, you know, the	8	unlikely to cut away one third of the
9	long-term portfolio is so great that I don't	9	Company's peak day requirement.
10	believe, you know, a demand/response approach	10 Q.	Mr. Iqbal or Dr. Chattopadhyay, do you have
11	would be sufficient for the entire piece.	11	anything to add about what kind of guidance
12	The question is whether it can be part of the	12	you are expecting the Commission to provide
13	solution. And that's certainly something	13	and whether the statute is either
14	that we would explore.	14	inapplicable slightly to gas companies or
15 Q.	Do you think that the statute is the	15	there's a way to deal with it? Dr.
16	policy behind the statute is suggesting that	16	Chattopadhyay.
17	you do that, that you eliminate gas demand	17 A.	(Chattopadhyay) I think one of the reasons
18	significantly?	18	why we want to have this working group is to
19 A.	(Furino) Well, I mean, I read the statute as,	19	come to a common understanding of what
20	you know, directing the Company to seek the	20	(connectivity issue) interpret the statute.
21	most effective resource while considering all	21	So personally, I don't have the knowledge
22	the impacts. So, you know, in addition to	22	bandwidth to sort of talk about what kind of
23	traditional metrics that we would look at,	23	demand response resources might help. But
24	such as cost or liability, you know, we're	24	certainly we will be exploring those.
	• •		
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}		{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 42	[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 44
[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 42 now trying to also, relative to the statutory	[WITNES	I would, however, point out that I agree
1	now trying to also, relative to the statutory	1	I would, however, point out that I agree
1 2	now trying to also, relative to the statutory requirement, assess the impact on the	1 2	I would, however, point out that I agree with what was previously mentioned by
1 2 3	now trying to also, relative to the statutory requirement, assess the impact on the environment, you know, what are the options	1 2 3	I would, however, point out that I agree with what was previously mentioned by Mr. Furino, that given specifically the
1 2 3 4	now trying to also, relative to the statutory requirement, assess the impact on the environment, you know, what are the options available. But I don't think the statute is	1 2 3 4	I would, however, point out that I agree with what was previously mentioned by Mr. Furino, that given specifically the situation with Northern utilities, they rely
1 2 3 4 5	now trying to also, relative to the statutory requirement, assess the impact on the environment, you know, what are the options available. But I don't think the statute is directing us to not provide sufficient	1 2 3 4 5	I would, however, point out that I agree with what was previously mentioned by Mr. Furino, that given specifically the situation with Northern utilities, they rely on, you know, a big chunk. They rely on a
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[VVII	NESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 45	[WITNESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 47
1	Mr. Iqbal.	So this is the struggle we are having at
2	A. (Iqbal) I agree what Mr. Chattopadhyay just	this moment. That's why one of the reasons
3	said, and I would add one thing, that it is	we are talking about only Northern's the
4	very difficult for anyone to prescribe	4 working group working with Northern. All
5	something without knowing the context and the	5 other utilities is dealing with IRP-related
6	situation of the Company. I give you an	6 issues we are dealing with. So we should be
7	example.	7 including all utilities in New Hampshire
8	Like Northern, for Northern IRP, they	8 because it will be more general guidelines.
9	are talking about incremental growth and	9 But we understand that general guidelines
10	incremental capacity acquiry [sic]. And	might be not right in this situation because
11	everybody understand, like Mr. Chattopadhyay	each company has its own reality. That's why
12	just mentioned, and Mr. Furino also mentioned	we thought it is better to deal with company
13	that, that they are relying on their supply.	by company and use this working group to
14	Almost 43 percent of their supply currently	understand to create common understanding
15	is delivered supply. So they will be looking	what is expected from IRP for that particular
16	for opportunity to buy new resources, which	company. If it is some electrical utility or
17	will reduce the cost. We all know that	it's another gas company, their situation
18	delivered supply are short term and usually	might be totally different and requires
19	costlier. So I agree that Northern has very	different level of environmental and health
20	limited option to reduce their usage, the	assessment. So that's the only thing I add
21	customer usage, from current level to	to what is already said.
22	downwards. It's almost impossible. But what	COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay.
23	they can do, the growth per customer basis or	Thank you. I think that's all I have.
24	some other way, growth per customer usage	24 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Commissioner
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
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	NESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 46	[WITNESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 48
1	might be reduced by energy efficiency and	[WITNESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 48 1 Giaimo.
1 2	might be reduced by energy efficiency and other resources, other demand response	[WITNESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 48 1 Giaimo. 2 BY COMMISSIONER GIAIMO:
1 2 3	might be reduced by energy efficiency and other resources, other demand response activities.	[WITNESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 48 1 Giaimo. 2 BY COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: 3 Q. Good morning. I guess I have a question. If
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	TNESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 49	[WI	TNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 51
1	and there will be what have you. But what's	1		consultant or an advisor to further inform
2		2		the group. That's my understanding.
3		3	Q.	And is the Company comfortable with what I
4		4		would visualize as a nine-month working group
5		5		time frame before the next before the
6	estate, for example, you know, things like	6		recommendation would be due? You know, I
7		7		visualize it as, you know, if an order came
8	forward, I think our process will be the	8		out in the next month or two, that it would
9	same. You know, I think it remains to be	9		still be just nine months to get something
10	seen, you know, how material the impacts	10		out. Is that okay?
11	on you know, what customers end up doing	11	A.	(Furino) You know, given what we know today,
12		12		I think that is reasonable. And, you know,
13	resource decisions.	13		we'll see where that scope takes us, any
14	COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Madam	14		subsequent engagements, where those take us
15	Chair	15		and certainly report back. But as a starting
16	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: I'm sorry,	16		point, I think that is sufficient.
17	Commissioner Giaimo.	17	Q.	Okay. One of the identified purposes of the
18	COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: We have a	18		work group, according to the settlement, is
19	request from Mr. Iqbal. Madam Chair, is that	19		that the work group would specifically work
20	okay to recognize Mr. Iqbal?	20		on the statutory interpretations of 387
21	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Absolutely.	21		I'm sorry 378:37 through 40.
22	You can recognize anyone you want.	22		Has research been done by the Company or
23	Mr. Iqbal, yes, you're off	23		others as to what they think the legislative
24	mute now.	24		intent is? And if there's no understanding
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}			{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
[WI	TNESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 50	[WI	TNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 52
1	A. (Iqbal) On that point, I would add one thing,	1		as to the legislative intent, would there be
2	that this is a five-year plan. But Company	2		any desire to go back to the legislature and
3	has to do their yearly plan, too, on cost of	3		say what did you mean by this? I guess I
4	gas and other things. So we understand	4		would hope the Company could answer first and
5	Commissioner concern about COVID. Those will	5		then Mr. Iqbal.
6	be reflected in the annual plan.	6	٨	
7	DV COMMICCIONED CLAIMO.		A.	(Furino) Sure. And this is I don't have
		7	A.	any specific guidance, you know, of the
8	Q. That sounds great.	7 8	A.	any specific guidance, you know, of the legislative process, as far as what went into
8 9	Q. That sounds great. Looking at the settlement agreement, do		A.	any specific guidance, you know, of the legislative process, as far as what went into the statute. What I have is really my own
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9 10 11	Q. That sounds great. Looking at the settlement agreement, do we know who specifically is it just the Company and the parties involved in this	8 9 10 11	A.	any specific guidance, you know, of the legislative process, as far as what went into the statute. What I have is really my own interpretation. But certainly the settling parties wanted to, you know, review that in
9 10 11 12	Q. That sounds great. Looking at the settlement agreement, do we know who specifically is it just the Company and the parties involved in this docket that will be part of the work group?	8 9 10 11 12	Α.	any specific guidance, you know, of the legislative process, as far as what went into the statute. What I have is really my own interpretation. But certainly the settling parties wanted to, you know, review that in more detail. As I think I mentioned earlier,
9 10 11 12 13	Q. That sounds great. Looking at the settlement agreement, do we know who specifically is it just the Company and the parties involved in this docket that will be part of the work group? Are you going to expand it? Is there general	8 9 10 11 12 13	Α.	any specific guidance, you know, of the legislative process, as far as what went into the statute. What I have is really my own interpretation. But certainly the settling parties wanted to, you know, review that in more detail. As I think I mentioned earlier, my view is that it instructs the Company to,
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9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. That sounds great. Looking at the settlement agreement, do we know who specifically is it just the Company and the parties involved in this docket that will be part of the work group? Are you going to expand it? Is there general consensus within the settling parties as to who will be in the working group? A. (Furino) I will start and say that my understanding is it will be the settling parties and that the settling parties will begin by defining a scope, scope of issues, scope of work. And as part of that, we'll identify whether there's issues that are raised that are beyond the technical expertise of the settling parties. And if	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	any specific guidance, you know, of the legislative process, as far as what went into the statute. What I have is really my own interpretation. But certainly the settling parties wanted to, you know, review that in more detail. As I think I mentioned earlier, my view is that it instructs the Company to, while it's making decisions, resource decisions, to consider a broader set of impacts on customers in our local environment when making those commitments. And Mr. Furino, before we turn to Mr. Iqbal, your interpretation would be that the legislature that the statute itself does not implicitly state that the Company should reduce gas consumption in its service territory.
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[WITN	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 53	[WI	ITN	NESS	SES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 55
1	issue)	1		BY	COMMISSIONER GIAIMO:
2	(Court Reporter interrupts.)	2			I had one question about the Monte Carlo
3	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Can we pause	3			analysis. The settlement seems to suggest
4	for a moment? Ms. Robidas can't hear you.	4			that the Company might have at one time been
5	MR. FURINO: Okay. Is	5			resistant and now seems not to be resistant
6	everyone am I coming through okay?	6			to doing a Monte Carlo-like analysis. Do I
7	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: You are now.	7			have that right?
8	We lost Mr. Chattopadhyay, though. Let's go	8			(Connectivity issues)
9	off the record a minute.	9	P	4.	(Furino) Okay? We were just experiencing a
10	(Pause in proceedings)	10			little static there. But if you can hear me,
11	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Back on the	11			I'll proceed.
12	record. He was answering a question I think.	12			So the idea of a Monte Carlo analysis
13	Mr. Taylor, go ahead.	13			and really the context is in trying to
14	MR. TAYLOR: This is Pat Taylor	14			establish a distribution of weather data.
15	from Unitil. I just wanted to pipe up, if I	15			You know, currently the Company applies a
16	may, because, you know, Mr. Furino's being	16			normal distribution. And, you know, the
17	asked to answer questions about statutory	17			question is does that remain appropriate. So
18	interpretation. And I just wanted to	18			a document that was filed we provided to the
19	because I think this probably falls more to me	19			parties, and I believe it was part of it
20	than Mr. Furino, the question of has any sort	20			became an attachment to the OCA's testimony,
21	of legislative intent been done. And I will	21			so it's in the record, which is an audit that
22	confess that it's been over a year now since we	22			was conducted of our gas supply management
23	first entered into the process of developing	23			functions at the direction of the Maine
24	our IRP. And so, you know, as of today I can't	24			Public Utilities Commission. And that was
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}				{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
[WITN	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 54	[WI	ITN	NESS	SES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 56
1	recall specifically if we did what you would	1		į	the audit report from Liberty Consultants.
2	consider to be a legislative intent research,	2			And in that report, one of the items was a
3	where we would go into some of the records of	3			possible suggestion for the Company to begin
4	the legislature.	4		i	to explore or pursue a Monte Carlo analysis
5	As for whether, you know, we	5			in trying to establish that distribution. So
6	would go back to the legislature, I don't	6			the Company hasn't had any resistance to
7	know that that's something we've discussed at	7			that. We just didn't view it as
8	this point for them to clarify their intent	8			initially, if you heard if you see any
9	when they passed this statute. So I think	9			discord there or notes of discord, we just
10	it's an interesting point and an interesting	10			didn't view it as, you know, part of an
11	question, but I did want to answer	11			inquiry that needed to be part of the
12	Commissioner Giaimo's question directly as to	12			settlement itself. But given the suggestion,
13	whether we had done a legislative intent.	13			the Company has committed to explore that in
14	And candidly, I think we'd have to go back	14			response to the audit recommendation in the
15	and look through our records to see if we had	15			first instance. And so when I say we're
16	done that. But, you know, with legislative	16			willing to share that with the group, that's
17	intent, they can sometimes be fruitful and	17			certainly or the working group that gets
18	sometimes not. (ct) So, you know, we will	18			established, that's something that we would
19	certainly look into that if we haven't done	19			already be undertaking.
20	so already. COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Mr.	20		Q. <i>'</i>	Thank you, Mr. Furino. I just want to make sure. Mr. Iqbal,
21 22	Taylor, that's a perfect answer to my question.	21 22			you haven't had your hand up, and I didn't
23	I appreciate it. And Mr. Furino's off the	23			want to lose track of the fact that you did
24	hook. He doesn't have to opine any further.	24			have something to say. Are you okay now
	•				
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}				{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}

	126 NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC. 124 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN		HEARING ON SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT June 11, 2020
[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 57	[WITN	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 59
1	or	1	the selected value would be exceeded in
2 A.	(Iqbal) Yeah. What I wanted to say, and I'm	2	projected years. Is it your opinion that
3	not going into the legal matters, as an	3	that criteria is too low? Is it too
4	analyst, how I look at it, that I think there	4	aggressive? I know, for example,
5	are two layers of your question. One is that	5	transmission planning generally goes at a
6	whether the Northern should be expanding,	6	90/10 or a 10 percent probability. Is a
7	getting more customers, or should it be the	7	2-1/2 percent probability a standard which
8	customers reducing their usage. These are	8	you have actually issues with?
9	two different questions, that if Commission	9 A	
10	wants Northern to expand, get more customers,	10	in IRP studies.
11	by that reducing overall gas uses in New	11 Q	Okay.
12	Hampshire, that is one way to look at it.	12 A	a. (Iqbal) So Company is using a standard
13	But then question becomes that, okay, what	13	approach.
14	are the alternatives? Is it a good idea to	14 Ç	2. And I do understand that, and I understand
15	move from oil heating to natural gas heating,	15	that's a standard approach. I was just
16	all these other aspect that we have to deal	16	wondering if you think the standard in
17	with? That's one way to look at it.	17	general may be too aggressive. And it sounds
18	The other way to look at is that whether	18	like you're saying no.
19	Company try to reduce the per customer or	19 A	1 1
20	(indecipherable) in current or future	20	horizon we are talking about. The five
21	customer base. That will give us totally	21	years' planning horizon actually effectively
22	different answer to the question of	22	is two to three years planning horizon for
23	legislative intent. Okay. Are you trying to	23	the companies in New Hampshire. So for three
24	reduce the overall greenhouse gas impact or	24	to five years' planning horizon, I think that
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}		{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 58	[WITN	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 60
1	some other Clean Air Act, all these things?	1	standard is fine.
2	So what I am trying to say, the answer	2 Ç	Okay. Thank you. Just about done. I think
3	would depend on what question we are asking.	3	I have one question for the Consumer
4	And that is also struggle we have, that what	4	Advocate, but I also have a comment.
5	question are the legislative branches asking	5	Mr. Chattopadhyay, I appreciate your
6	us to look at. That should be there could	6	testimony. In a way, it actually enlightened
7	be other way to look at it. But these are	7	me to many of the challenges the Company
8	the two example. And these two example give	8	would have with factoring in environmental
9	you totally different answer to that	9	challenges. You know, if you increase energy
10	question.	10	efficiency if you increase efficiency and
11	So as I said it before, that it should	11	increase demand, it might create more
12	not be too prescriptive, that, hey, you have	12	electrification, which might cause different
13	to look at all these things, but at least	13	generation the need for generation to turn
14	guideline of what you should be looking at.	14	on and use gas. So your testimony helped me
15	Are you trying to say that reduce per capita	15	further understand and appreciate how complex
16	usage or reduce overall usage? So those type	16	it is. So thank you for that.
17	of things, that big-picture ideas we are	17	But I'm going to turn to the last page
18	expecting from the Commission.	18	of your testimony and just ask you to comment
19 Q.	Mr. Iqbal, while your mic's live, I guess I'd	19	on it. And I'm on Page 11, starting at
20	like to ask you a question.	20	Line 9, where it says, "There may be opportunities for the Company to better
21 22	You note in your testimony that the Company selected a planning basis which	21	manage its portfolio by optimizing the use of
22	resulted in a probability, and you used the	22	newly available pipeline capacity in

23

24

resulted in a probability, and you used the

word of "only about 2.5 percent," and that

{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}

23

24

newly available pipeline capacity in

conjunction with new LNG based on storage

{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}

	24 INTEGRATED RESOURCE FLAN		Julie 11, 2020
[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 61	[TIW]	NESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 63
1	capacity. The OCA would encourage the	1	that there are ways to also use the existing
2	Company to explore those opportunities."	2	capacities or the pending ones to have LNG be
з А.	(Chattopadhyay) Can you just give me 30	3	part of the story and give a better solution
4	seconds? I'm try to so you are at	4	to the ratepayers. So that is a lower cost
5	Page 11.	5	option.
6 Q.	Yes.	6	COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Madam
7 Å.	(Chattopadhyay) Yeah, and line number?	7	Chair, those are the only questions I have. I
8 Q.	Nine.	8	thank the witnesses and turn it back to you.
9 A.	(Chattopadhyay) Nine. Yeah, go ahead.	9	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.
10	Sorry. I had to reboot everything so I'm	10	Thank you. I just have one question left.
11	getting it on the screen here. Yeah, go	11	BY CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:
12	ahead.	12 (Q. Mr. Iqbal had testified that the 30-year
13 Q.	I certainly appreciate that.	13	weather norm has been used for a long time in
14	My question to you is, and maybe you can	14	New Hampshire. But the Company looked at all
15	comment a little more, in that in it you	15	of the options and concluded that it's still
16	talked about optimizing new capacity	16	valued for purposes of New Hampshire. Could
17	utilizing LNG and storage. And I'm	17	someone explain why that conclusion was
18	wondering, is it your suggestion that that	18	reached?
19	would be layered on top of existing legacy	19 /	A. (Furino) Excuse me. Yes. Thank you for the
20	contracts? Would it be used to replace	20	question. You know, first of all, I wanted
21	retiring contracts? Would it be a	21	to point out that in the filing the Company
22	combination of the two? It's a very	22	provided a table, which is available in
23	interesting comment that I was hoping you	23	Exhibit 3 at Bates Page 85.
24	might comment on a little more.	24	In any case, this table presents the
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}		{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
[WITNES	SSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 62	[WITI	NESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page 64
1 Λ	(Chattopadhyay) The way I was looking at it	1	weather histories that the utilities in the
2	was when you see the long-term contracts, the	2	region use and also the planning standards
3	recent ones that the Company is for	3	
4	example, today Mr. Furino talked about the	٦	that they like And offentimes it's the
		4	that they use. And oftentimes it's the
	-	4 5	design day planning standard that drives
5	pending contract. Something like that for	5	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table
6	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are	5 6	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas
6 7	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But	5 6 7	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the
6 7 8	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for	5 6 7 8	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty
6 7 8 9	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for summer, if you're getting those resources, it	5 6 7 8 9	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as
6 7 8 9 10	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for summer, if you're getting those resources, it might be helpful to have an LNG facility	5 6 7 8 9	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as our affiliate in Northern Utilities. And
6 7 8 9	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for summer, if you're getting those resources, it might be helpful to have an LNG facility somewhere and be able to store that. So you	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as our affiliate in Northern Utilities. And really what we show in this table is that we
6 7 8 9 10 11	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for summer, if you're getting those resources, it might be helpful to have an LNG facility somewhere and be able to store that. So you can actually reduce the use of short-term,	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as our affiliate in Northern Utilities. And really what we show in this table is that we have selected or there's no there's
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for summer, if you're getting those resources, it might be helpful to have an LNG facility somewhere and be able to store that. So you can actually reduce the use of short-term, you know, peaking resources by replacing them by the gas that you have saved in the LNG	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as our affiliate in Northern Utilities. And really what we show in this table is that we have selected or there's no there's very few parties using anything like a shorter period of history and/or combined
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for summer, if you're getting those resources, it might be helpful to have an LNG facility somewhere and be able to store that. So you can actually reduce the use of short-term, you know, peaking resources by replacing them by the gas that you have saved in the LNG tank. So I was really thinking in those	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as our affiliate in Northern Utilities. And really what we show in this table is that we have selected or there's no there's very few parties using anything like a shorter period of history and/or combined with a planning standard that's as low as
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for summer, if you're getting those resources, it might be helpful to have an LNG facility somewhere and be able to store that. So you can actually reduce the use of short-term, you know, peaking resources by replacing them by the gas that you have saved in the LNG tank. So I was really thinking in those terms. And it stems from the report that the	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as our affiliate in Northern Utilities. And really what we show in this table is that we have selected or there's no there's very few parties using anything like a shorter period of history and/or combined with a planning standard that's as low as ours. So I just want to point that out. I
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for summer, if you're getting those resources, it might be helpful to have an LNG facility somewhere and be able to store that. So you can actually reduce the use of short-term, you know, peaking resources by replacing them by the gas that you have saved in the LNG tank. So I was really thinking in those terms. And it stems from the report that the Company had shared with us and I have that	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as our affiliate in Northern Utilities. And really what we show in this table is that we have selected or there's no there's very few parties using anything like a shorter period of history and/or combined with a planning standard that's as low as ours. So I just want to point that out. I think that people think about the wording
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for summer, if you're getting those resources, it might be helpful to have an LNG facility somewhere and be able to store that. So you can actually reduce the use of short-term, you know, peaking resources by replacing them by the gas that you have saved in the LNG tank. So I was really thinking in those terms. And it stems from the report that the Company had shared with us and I have that in my testimony which Liberty Consultants	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as our affiliate in Northern Utilities. And really what we show in this table is that we have selected or there's no there's very few parties using anything like a shorter period of history and/or combined with a planning standard that's as low as ours. So I just want to point that out. I think that people think about the wording that we've seen over the last several
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for summer, if you're getting those resources, it might be helpful to have an LNG facility somewhere and be able to store that. So you can actually reduce the use of short-term, you know, peaking resources by replacing them by the gas that you have saved in the LNG tank. So I was really thinking in those terms. And it stems from the report that the Company had shared with us and I have that in my testimony which Liberty Consultants had done. Take a look at it. That is one of	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as our affiliate in Northern Utilities. And really what we show in this table is that we have selected or there's no there's very few parties using anything like a shorter period of history and/or combined with a planning standard that's as low as ours. So I just want to point that out. I think that people think about the wording that we've seen over the last several decades, and we've seen it as we've gone
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	pending contract. Something like that for like 10,000 decatherms per day, those are going to be very useful in winter. But you're getting it even in summer. So for summer, if you're getting those resources, it might be helpful to have an LNG facility somewhere and be able to store that. So you can actually reduce the use of short-term, you know, peaking resources by replacing them by the gas that you have saved in the LNG tank. So I was really thinking in those terms. And it stems from the report that the Company had shared with us and I have that in my testimony which Liberty Consultants had done. Take a look at it. That is one of the aspects that the consultants had raised.	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	design day planning standard that drives capacity commitments. And in this table we're listing, I don't know, Bay State Gas Company, Bircher Gas, a bunch of the Massachusetts utilities, as well as Liberty Utilities, EnergyNorth and others, as well as our affiliate in Northern Utilities. And really what we show in this table is that we have selected or there's no there's very few parties using anything like a shorter period of history and/or combined with a planning standard that's as low as ours. So I just want to point that out. I think that people think about the wording that we've seen over the last several decades, and we've seen it as we've gone through time, as being the only part of the
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1	is planning to a 1 in 30-year occurrence. As	1	impacts. We're especially keen to include in
2	to the research, I'm not seeing it at the	2	those discussions further explorations of those
3	moment, but I know we filed it.	3	environmental impacts of traditional resources
4	But the general conclusion that Mr.	4	and potential options for non-gas and non-
5	Iqbal was referring to was a series of	5	pipeline alternatives. We do believe that the
6	climate data research that we conducted and	6	working group will result in valuable
7	provided. And what we were showing and	7	recommendations for the Commission to consider
8	seeing is that, in New Hampshire, for the	8	in developing any future guidance for future
9	last three decades, complete decades, there	9	LCIRPs under 378:37 to 40.
10	has been no reduction in the heating degree	10	So for the reasons outlined
11	days that we've seen. And so that's sort of	11	above, we respectfully recommend that the
12	the primary conclusion that suggests that 30	12	Commission approve this settlement agreement
13	years is still appropriate. Now, we have	13	as proposed. Thank you.
14	seen warming in the Maine data, but that's	14	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you.
15	begun to stabilize as well. And the	15	Ms. Fabrizio.
16	decrease you know, the escalation of	16	MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you. Staff
17	warming, I guess, if that makes sense, has	17	also recommends approval of Northern's revised
18	begun to slow in Maine as well. So those	18	Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan, as well as
19	factors are what's sort of embodied in the	19	the settlement entered into by Northern, the
20	data that we present in the resource plan.	20	Office of the Consumer Advocate and Staff as
21 Q.	Thank you for that.	21	presented today. Staff believes that Northern
22	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Do any of	22	has prepared a well-reasoned and well-supported
23	the parties have redirect they'd like to ask?	23	plan that meets the applicable requirements of
24	[No verbal response]	24	RSA 378. The Company's plan is based on a
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}		{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
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1	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay.	1	reasonable forecast of future demand in its
2	Seeing none, before we sum up then, we'll	2	service area and includes a balanced array of
3	strike the I.D. on Exhibits 1 through 7 without	3	supply options and demand site energy programs.
4	objection and admit them as full exhibits.	4	It includes a reasonable assessment of system
5	Is there anything else we need	5	requirements at this time, as well as utility
6	to do before the parties sum up?	6	obligations under evolving economic and
7	MS. FABRIZIO: Chairwoman	7	environmental regulations and policies, all
8	Martin, I think I neglected to confirm my	8	while taking into account potential impacts on
9	location. I am in my office at the Commission	9	ratepayers. Staff considers Northern's
10	building, and no one has been here for the	10	approach to resource planning to be sound in
11	duration of this hearing.	11	terms of gas distribution system planning in
12	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you.	12	New Hampshire. Staff also supports approval of
13	I assumed you were from the background.	13	the settlement presented today which proposes
14	Okay. If there's nothing	14	an appropriate avenue to explore ways for
15	else, let's start with Ms. Shute.	15	Northern to meet evolving requirements under
16	MS. SHUTE: Thank you. The	16	state law and policy, while carefully
17	Office of Consumer Advocate supports the	17	considering ratepayer interests.
18	settlement agreement and the adequacy of the	18	Staff therefore proposes that
19	LCIRP submitted under the current guidance. We	19	the Commission approve the plan and the
20	appreciate the willingness of the Company to	20	settlement before it today and initiate a
21	work with the parties to evaluate whether there	21	separate proceeding for interested parties to
22	are additional ways to incorporate the	22	investigate the issues and options relevant
	· -		
23	statutory requirements of RSA 378:37 through 40	23	to gas utilities in New Hampshire under RSA
23 24	· -	23 24	to gas utilities in New Hampshire under RSA 378.
	statutory requirements of RSA 378:37 through 40		-

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1	Staff thanks both the Company	1	working group process to develop potential
2	and the OCA for their cooperative efforts in	2	additional recommendations regarding the
3	this proceeding, and the Commission for its	3	statutory requirements.
4	consideration of the results of those	4	And so with that, I thank you
5	efforts. Thank you.	5	for your time. We do recommend that the
6	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you.	6	settlement agreement and the IRP be accepted
7	Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor,	7	and approved by the Commission. Thanks.
8	you're on mute.	8	CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All righ
9	MR. TAYLOR: Thanks. I'd like	9	Well, thank you, everyone. We very much
LO	to thank the Commission for its time and the	10	appreciate all the efforts that went into
L1	Commissioner's thoughtful questions today,	11	reaching a settlement in this case. We will
.2	particularly under the circumstances. I do	12	take the matter under advisement. And we are
L3	look forward to seeing you all again in person	13	done. Thank you.
L 4	in the hearing room. I'd also like to thank	14	And thank you, Mr. Wind and
15	Commission Staff and the Office of the Consumer	15	Ms. Robidas, for your help today.
L6	Advocate for their effort and their input in	16	(Hearing concluded at 11:41 a.m.)
17	this docket.	17	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
18	The settlement agreement	18	
19	before the Commission is very much the	19	
20	product of a collaborative effort. And so	20	
21	like the Staff and the Consumer Advocate, the	21	
22	Company recommends that the Commission	22	
23	approve the settlement in the Company's Least	23	
24	Cost IRP. The Company's Least Cost IRP as	24	
	{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}		{DG 19-126} [LCIRP HEARING] {06-11-2020}
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1	revised is consistent with and adequate under	1	ESSES: FURINO CHATTOPADHYAY IQBAL] Page
	revised is consistent with and adequate under the statutory requirements of RSA 378, and we	1 2	
1	revised is consistent with and adequate under the statutory requirements of RSA 378, and we do think it should be approved by the	1 2 3	CERTIFICATE I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
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