

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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September 23, 2021

Ms. Dianne H. Martin  
Chairwoman and Agency Head  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Docket No. DG 21-104, Northern Utilities, Inc. d/b/a Unitil  
Request for Change in Rates

Dear Ms. Martin:

As you know, the Commission has scheduled a hearing in the above-referenced proceeding for September 24, 2021 (tomorrow) to consider the parties' settlement agreement as to temporary rates pursuant to RSA 378:27. Conducting this hearing on an expedited basis is necessary to meet the proposed effective date for temporary rates of October 1, 2021.

The Office of the Consumer Advocate ("OCA") regrets to inform the Commission that it will be unable to participate in tomorrow's hearing. At present our office has only one attorney – me – and I have a preexisting personal commitment that I cannot reschedule or avoid.

I hope the Commission will deem our presence at tomorrow's hearing to be nonessential. We are a party to the settlement agreement and, as such, have no facts or legal issues to bring to the Commission's attention beyond those within the four corners of the agreement. We are confident that Northern Utilities can provide a suitable evidentiary basis for the settlement and answer any questions the Commission may have about the settlement.

I apologize for any inconvenience our non-appearance may engender and assure the Commission that we will be a full and active participant in the proceeding as the focus turns to permanent rates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DKreis".

Donald M. Kreis  
Consumer Advocate

Cc: Service list, via e-mail