



October 28, 2021

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dianne Martin, Chairwoman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit St, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Re: DG 21-104 Northern Utilities, Inc.
Petition for Rate Increase: First Report of Rate Case Expenses

Chairwoman Martin:

In compliance with Part Puc 1905.01, Estimated Rate Case Expenses, Northern Utilities, Inc. (the "Company") hereby submits its first 90-day Report of Rate Case Expenses in the above-referenced docket. Pursuant to the Executive Director's letter dated March 17, 2020 suspending all Commission rules requiring the filing of paper copies, the Company is submitting this filing in electronic form only. The Company's electronic filing complies with Puc 203.03. The Company will retain an original copy of the filing, and is prepared to provide paper copies at the Commission's request.

Attachment 1 describes the categories of rate case expenses. As described therein, the costs are primarily for outside consulting services to assist with the preparation and presentation of the Company's proposed rate case and the Company's proposed development of studies on various matters required to establish appropriate rates for the Company's customers. The Company obtained competitive bids from outside consultants in order to contain costs and provide a basis to evaluate the overall reasonableness of rate case expenses.

In addition to these services, the Company's internal staff plays a significant role in rate case preparation (gathering data, researching information, preparing analyses, bill frequencies, customer bill impacts, revising tariffs, and preparing the filing, for example). Internal staff is also heavily involved in responding to information requests and preparing responses for filing. To date, the Company's internal legal counsel is handling legal-related aspects of this proceeding. No internal Company staff costs are included in rate case expenses.

Attachment 2 provides the procurement process used by the Company to engage and employ outside consultants rendering services on behalf of the Company in this rate case. The Company's procurement process for its outside consultants includes issuing a Request for Proposals, analyzing the bids, selecting the winning bidder, and executing engagement letters. The fee proposals, availability, qualifications and experience of

Patrick H. Taylor
Senior Counsel
taylorp@unitil.com

6 Liberty Lane West
Hampton, NH 03842

each bidder, technical approach, and proposal quality are all considered in its selection of the winning bidder.

Attachment 3 is a schedule which provides a breakdown of actual rate case expenses paid to date by service provider and projected rate case expenses as filed in the Company's initial filing, for each expense category.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. H. Taylor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick H. Taylor
Attorney for Unitil

Enclosures

cc: Service List
Paul Dexter, Esq., Staff Counsel
Donald Kreis, Esq., Consumer Advocate