

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 23-086

NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

Petition for Approval of Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factor

**Order *Nisi* Approving Peak RDAF Rates on an Interim Basis and
Suspending Non-Peak RDAF Tariff**

O R D E R N O. 26,896

October 31, 2023

In this order, the Commission approves on a *nisi* and interim basis, pending further review and hearing, Northern Utilities, Inc.'s Peak Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factor (RDAF) rates, effective November 1, 2023.

I. BACKGROUND

On September 15, 2023, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern, or the Company) filed a petition for Commission approval of its RDAF rates for its upcoming Peak (November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024) and Off-Peak (May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024) RDAF rates for its upcoming RDAF rate year. The Company's petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are available on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2023/23-086.html>

Following a series of procedural filings by the Company, the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA), and the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE), the Commission issued a procedural order dispositioning the next phases of this case in the following way on October 13, 2023. First, the Commission, at the request of the DOE with the assent of the Company and the OCA, deferred the final review and approval of Northern's requested RDAF rates for the Peak and Off-Peak Periods to

some future hearing date in early January 2024, to be requested by the Company, DOE, and OCA. Second, the Commission undertook to approve the Northern Peak RDAF rates on an interim, Order *Nisi* basis on November 1, 2023, subject to future reconciliation on based on the parties', and the Commission's, review. See Commission Procedural Order, October 13, 2023, Docket No. DG 23-086. This order *nisi* addresses this issue.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

On our initial review, for the purposes of interim approval of Northern's proposed Peak RDAF rates effective November 1, 2023, subject to our further review and reconciliation, we find that the Company-proposed Peak RDAF rates are just and reasonable, pursuant to RSA 374:2, RSA 378:5, and RSA 378:7, and we approve them on such an interim, *nisi* basis. Our final review and approval of the Peak RDAF rates will transpire in the context of the upcoming early January hearing, expected to be requested by the Company, the DOE, and the OCA, in this proceeding. We will also address the proposed Non-Peak RDAF rates following that hearing, and to enable our ongoing review, we suspend the proposed Non-Peak RDAF Tariff for three months, or until February 1, 2024, pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b).

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, that subject to the effective date below, Northern Utilities, Inc.'s proposed Peak Period RDAF Rates, as delineated in the table below, are APPROVED on an INTERIM BASIS, pending further review and hearing in January 2024; and it is

Class of Customer	Peak RDAF Rate (\$/therm)
Residential Heat	\$0.0434
Residential Non-Heat	\$0.0588
General Service HLF	(\$0.0112)
General Service LLF	\$0.0169

FURTHER ORDERED, that Northern's proposed RDAF Non-Peak Tariff pages are suspended pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b), for a period not to exceed 3 months, or February 1, 2024, pending investigation and further order of the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Northern Utilities, Inc. shall cause a copy of this order to be published on its website, such publication to be no later than one business day after this order is issued, and to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before November 7, 2023; and it is

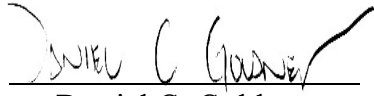
FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this order be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than November 13, 2023; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than November 17, 2023; and it is

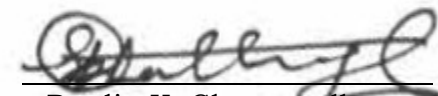
FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective November 1, 2023, unless Northern fails to satisfy the publication obligation as set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Northern Utilities, Inc. shall file a compliance Tariff with the Commission regarding the Peak RDAF Interim Rates addressed herein on or before November 3, 2023.

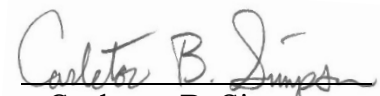
By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirty-first day of October, 2023.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 23-086

Printed: 10/31/2023

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