



November 23, 2010

**BY OVERNIGHT MAIL AND E-MAIL**

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: Docket No. DG 08-048

Dear Director Howland:

On November 18, 2010, the New Hampshire Public Utility Commission Staff ("Staff") filed with the New Hampshire Public Utility Commission ("Commission") an Inter-Department Communication from the Assistant Director, Gas & Water Division, which recommends that the Commission "open an investigation regarding, among other things:

the results and conclusions of the Granite Study and whether some other physical, operational, regulatory and/or corporate structure applicable to the Granite pipeline would better serve the public interest. Staff recommends that the investigation also consider the impact on New Hampshire ratepayers of the capital investments proposed by Granite, and the feasibility and implications of integrating the Granite pipeline with Northern, and the possibility and implications of state regulation of the pipeline, including whether state jurisdiction would result in lower regulatory costs and more effective oversight of pipeline safety concerns.

Staff further believes it would be appropriate and in the public interest for the Commission to review Granite's analysis regarding its proposed replacement of disbonded pipe before Granite irrevocably commits to the proposed replacement."

Prior to ruling on the Staff's recommendations, and in the interest of administrative efficiency, Northern Utilities, Inc. ("Northern" or "Company") requests that the Commission convene a status conference on this matter to provide an opportunity for the Company to

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make a presentation on the results of the Granite Study. Northern submits that through this presentation, the Company will attempt to respond to, and either fully resolve, or at least narrow the numerous concerns raised in the Staff's Memorandum, and possibly avoid for all the expenditure of time and resources that a formal investigation may require. Moreover, by holding a status conference and affording the Company this opportunity, the Commission would not be precluded from subsequently taking such action as it deems lawful and appropriate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if the Commission has any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Epler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and the last name "Epler" clearly distinguishable.

Gary Epler  
Attorney for Northern Utilities, Inc.

cc: Anne Ross, General Counsel  
Lynn Fabrizio, Staff Counsel  
Meredith Hatfield, Consumer Advocate