

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DG 22-059**

**NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.**

**2022-2023 Winter and 2023 Summer Cost of Gas**

**Order Clarifying Order No. 26,713**

**O R D E R N O. 26,736**

**November 30, 2022**

In this order, the Commission clarifies an ordering clause presented in its recent Cost of Gas (COG) order establishing rates for the 2022-2023 winter period and for the 2023 summer period for Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern), Order No. 26,713 (October 27, 2022).

On October 27, 2022, the Commission issued its COG order for Northern, Order No. 26,713, which included the following ordering clause on Page 11, relating to COG over- or under-collections: "...[It is further ordered] that the over- or under-collection shall accrue interest at the prime rate as reported by the Federal Reserve Statistical Release of Selected Interest Rates, the rate to be adjusted monthly..." Order No. 26,713 at Page 11.

Subsequently, on November 10, 2022, Northern filed a Motion for Clarification (Motion) relating to this ordering clause. Specifically, Northern stated that its COG Tariff, as approved in Docket No. DG 17-170, in Order No. 26,129 (May 2, 2018), stipulated that the interest rate on over- or under-collections "...is to be adjusted each quarter using the prime interest rate as reported by the Wall Street Journal on the first date of the month preceding the first month of the quarter." Motion at 1-2. *See also* Northern COG Tariff, Original Page 20. Northern also stated that, in its view, the approach established by the Tariff would be consistent with Commission practice in

other contexts, and modification of this approach would not provide any material benefit to Northern customers. Motion at 2-3. The New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed a letter in support of Northern's Motion on November 21, 2022. No other comments regarding the Motion were filed.


The Motion and related docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2022/22-059.html>

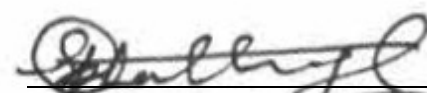
Having reviewed the Motion, the DOE letter of support, and the record before us, we have concluded that the inclusion of the ordering clause at issue was an oversight that should be corrected to conform with the provisions of the Northern COG Tariff. It appears that this error was also present in the Commission COG Orders for Northern during the past three COG years (2019, 2020, and 2021), and no party brought this to the Commission's attention prior to this year. See Order Nos. 26,303 (October 29, 2019) at Page 7; 26,420 (October 30, 2020) at Page 7; and 26,539 (October 19, 2021) at Page 7. We thank Northern for proactively addressing this issue for the 2022 COG Order. We will modify the ordering clause accordingly in this Order of clarification.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that the ordering clause on Page 11 of Order No. 26,713 that was the subject of Northern's Motion be modified to read as follows: "**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the over- or under-collection shall accrue interest at the prime interest rate as reported by the Wall Street Journal on the first date of the month preceding the first month of the quarter, with the interest rate to be adjusted quarterly..."

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirtieth day  
of November, 2022.

  
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Daniel C. Goldner  
Chairman

  
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Pradip K. Chattopadhyay  
Commissioner

# Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-059

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Email Addresses

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ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov  
Faisal.DeenArif@energy.nh.gov  
Sean.M.Courtois@energy.nh.gov  
Energy-Litigation@energy.nh.gov  
thomas.c.frantz@energy.nh.gov  
donald.m.kreis@oca.nh.gov  
karen.j.moran@energy.nh.gov  
amanda.o.noonan@energy.nh.gov  
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov  
mary.e.schwarzer@energy.nh.gov  
taylorp@unitil.com