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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



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August 28, 2009

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Docket No. DE 09-009
Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Default Service Proceeding
Staff Recommendation on Time of Filing



Dear Ms. Howland:

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (UES) makes quarterly filings requesting Commission approval of a solicitation, bid evaluation and selection of a power supplier for default service supply for its large commercial customers, and bi-annual filings with a similar request for power supply for its residential default service customers. Granite State Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid) makes filings under a similar regimen. The Commission typically schedules the hearings on these filings on the same day so as to allow the Staff to efficiently explore common elements in the filings, and to present its views on these common elements to the Commission on the same day.

In its most recent solicitation, UES has diverted from its usual schedule, resulting with a filing on August 28, 2009 and a hearing scheduled for September 2, 2009. National Grid's filing will be made in the middle of September, which is the customary filing time for both UES and National Grid, with a hearing scheduled for September 17, 2009.

Staff believes that it can best present its analysis of the Companies' default service filings when the hearings are scheduled on the same day, and that it also serves the Commission to hear the filings on the same day to compare relevant issues, including the resulting default service rates. Therefore, we hereby request that the Commission direct UES, with its next and all future default service filings, to resume its practice of filing its default service petition at a time which allows the Commission to hear UES' and National Grid's petition on the same day.

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Thank you for your attention. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne G. Amidon', with a stylized, cursive script.

Suzanne G. Amidon
Staff Attorney

Service List