

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Docket No. DE 19-033

**UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.
Petition for Approval of Time of Use Study**

**CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION
PETITION TO INTERVENE**

Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”) hereby petitions to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding, pursuant to the February 27, 2019 Order of Notice, N.H. Admin. Rules, Puc 203.17, and in accordance with the standards of RSA 541-A:32. The Public Utilities Commission has initiated a proceeding to consider a proposal filed by Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (“Unitil”) that seeks approval for a proposed time-of-use (“TOU”) study and approval to recover costs related to the study. In its Order of Notice, the Commission directed interested parties to seek intervention by March 21, 2019.

In support of its petition for intervention, CLF states as follows:

1. CLF is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting New England’s environment for the benefit of all people. CLF uses the law, science, and markets to create solutions that build healthy communities, sustain a vibrant economy, and preserve natural resources, including resources affected by the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power and the transportation and use of natural gas. Consistent with its mission to promote thriving, resilient communities, CLF advances sound clean energy policies that strengthen New England’s—and New Hampshire’s—economic vitality. CLF has approximately

5,000 financially contributing members in New England, including around 600 in New Hampshire, some of whom reside in the electric distribution territory of Unitil.

2. CLF has significant institutional expertise in the subjects at issue in this proceeding. CLF has long advocated the increased adoption of TOU rates, including in the Grid Modernization investigatory proceeding still pending before this Commission, IR 15-296. In addition, CLF was an active participant and a signatory to the settlement agreement in the net metering docket, DE 16-576, that ultimately led to Unitil's filing of the proposal before the Commission in this proceeding.

3. CLF's general involvement in New Hampshire energy matters has spanned more than two decades. This involvement includes intervention in numerous dockets before the Public Utilities Commission, such as Docket Nos.: DR 97-211, DE 01-057, DE 07-064, DE 08-103, DE 08-145, DE 09-033, DE 10-160, DE 10-188, DE 11-215, DE 11-250, DE 13-108, DE 13-275, DE 14-120, DE 14-238, DE 15-124, IR 15-124, IR 15-137, IR 15-296, DE 16-241, DE 16-693, DE 16-817, DE 17-124, DE 17-136, DE 17-189, DG 17-152, and DG 17-198. CLF is currently an active participant in ongoing stakeholder meetings to develop pilot projects, including TOU pilots, pursuant to the Commission's Order in Docket DE 16-576.

4. CLF and its members have a strong interest in expanding the availability and ensuring the success of time of use rates in the state. When demand for energy increases at certain times of the day, this creates what is known as peak energy demand and can put a strain on the electricity system. During these times, energy is more expensive to generate and is typically dirtier because utilities have to call on less efficient "peaker" power plants. There are a number of tools available to utilities and customers to limit these peak times, but time-of-use rates are one such tool. Well-designed and properly implemented TOU rate offerings, combined

with technologies and services that facilitate automated customer engagement, will be particularly important to contain costs and emissions as electrification efforts proceed.

5. The rights, privileges, and interests of CLF and its members will be affected by the outcome of this proceeding. CLF members in the Unitil service territory will be particularly affected.

6. CLF respectfully submits that its intervention as a party in this proceeding is likely to elucidate important issues and facilitate an expeditious and just resolution of this proceeding, as a result of CLF's special expertise and experience.

7. CLF's participation is in the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding. CLF's participation will neither delay nor disrupt this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, Conservation Law Foundation respectfully requests that the Commission grant its petition to intervene in Docket No. DE 19-033.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa E. Birchard
Senior Attorney
CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION
27 N. Main St.
Concord, NH 03301
Phone (603) 225-3060
Fax (603) 225-3059
mbirchard@clf.org

Dated: March 21, 2019

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Petition to Intervene has, on this 21st day of March, 2019, been sent by email to the service list in Docket No. DE 19-033.



Melissa E. Birchard
Conservation Law Foundation