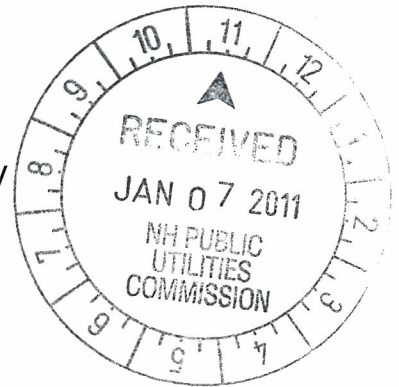




January 6, 2011

**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. DE 10-055**

Dear Director Howland:

I am writing on behalf of Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. ("Unitil"), the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission Staff (Staff") and the Office of Consumer Advocate ("OCA") (collectively "the Parties") to advise the Commission of the status of this docket. Currently, Unitil, Staff and the OCA are engaged in settlement negotiations. The next upcoming event on the procedural schedule is the filing of rebuttal testimony by Unitil, scheduled for January 12. At this time, Staff, OCA and the Company have agreed that it would be beneficial to the settlement negotiations to postpone the filing of Unitil's rebuttal testimony, without any prejudice to Unitil's right to file such testimony should negotiations fail to produce a comprehensive settlement. If no settlement is reached, the Parties will offer a revision to the procedural schedule for the Commission's consideration to allow for the filing of rebuttal testimony prior to hearing.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.  
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary Epler  
Attorney for Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.

Gary Epler  
Chief Regulatory Counsel

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cc: Lynn Fabrizio, Staff Counsel  
Meredith Hatfield, Consumer Advocate  
Susan Geiger, Orr & Reno, P.A.