

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. DE 16-384

**UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.
OBJECTION TO MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION/PETITION TO INTERVENE OF
ACADIA CENTER**

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (“Unitil Energy” or the “Company”), in accordance with Puc 203.07 and RSA 541-A, hereby objects to the motion for clarification/petition to intervene filed by the Acadia Center in the above-captioned docket. In support of this objection, the Company states as follows:

1. In Order No. 25,906, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) suspended the investigation of, and stayed any litigation regarding, the Company’s proposed tariff schedule for Domestic Distributed Energy Resources (Schedule DDER). In addition, the Commission deferred decision on the petitions to intervene while the suspension and stay are in effect.
2. In its Motion for Clarification, filed on June 14, the Acadia Center states that its interest in this docket is broader than Unitil Energy’s proposed Schedule DDER, and that it had concerns with the Company’s customer charge proposal and the minimum system method for cost allocation. The Acadia Center states that it “has considerable experience with rate design issues and impacts for proposals for increased customer charges,” and “experience with New Hampshire energy and electric utility policy more generally,” and that it “spends considerable time, effort, and monetary resources working to ensure that utility rate design preserves incentives to use energy wisely” in a number of states, including New Hampshire. Motion at 1. On this basis, Acadia Center claims that its “rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by this proceeding,” requests that it be allowed to participate in this proceeding as a full party.” Id. at 2.
3. RSA 541-A:32 provides that a petition to intervene shall be granted where “(b) [t]he petition states facts demonstrating that the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding or that the petitioner qualifies as an intervenor under any provision of law and (c) [t]he presiding officer determines that the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings would not be impaired by allowing the intervention.”

4. The Acadia Center is not a customer of the Company. The Center has merely stated that it has expertise in and is interested in rate design, and does not explain why these interests would not be satisfied by generally monitoring the publically available files of this docket on the Commission's website, and submitting comments to the Commission. Moreover, the Acadia Center does not explain why its interests on these matters would not be sufficiently represented by the Office of Consumer Advocate ("OCA"). The OCA has intervened on behalf of residential ratepayers pursuant to RSA 363:28.

5. While the Acadia Center may have a general interest in Unitil Energy's rate design proposals, these proposals do not affect its "rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests." *See Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp.*, Docket DE 14-211, Order 25,715 at 3 (September 8, 2014)(Commission held that a general interest in the subject matter of the docket is insufficient to entitle these parties to intervene pursuant to RSA 541-A:32, I).

6. For these reasons, the Company requests that the Commission deny the Acadia Center's Motion for Clarification/Petition to Intervene.

WHEREFORE, Unitil Energy respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Deny the Acadia Center's Motion for Clarification/Petition to Intervene; and
- B. Such other relief as is just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary Epler
Attorney for Unitil Energy

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 20, 2016, a copy of this Objection to Acadia Center's Motion for Clarification/Petition for Intervention has been forwarded to the service list in this docket and Ellen Hawes, Senior Analyst, Energy Systems and Carbon Markets.



Gary Epler