

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

**DE 20-092**

**ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES**

**2021-2023 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan**

**UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC. AND NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.  
MOTION FOR HYBRID HEARING**

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (“UES”) and Northern Utilities, Inc. (“Northern”) (collectively, “Unitil” or the “Company”) hereby respectfully move the Commission, pursuant to Puc 203.07, to conduct evidentiary hearings in the above-captioned docket on a hybrid basis to allow participation by a Company witness who cannot appear in person due to health concerns. In support of this motion, Unitil states:

1. On March 1, 2022, UES, Northern, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, and Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp d/b/a Liberty submitted the NHSaves 2022- 2023 Plan proposal (the “Plan”) in compliance with HB 549.

2. In an Order dated January 31, 2022, the Commission established a procedural schedule setting hearings on the Plan for April 21 and 22, 2022. Order No. 26,573 at 6 (Jan. 31, 2022). The Commission subsequently affirmed the April 21-22 hearing dates in a Supplemental Notice of Adjudicative Proceeding and Procedural Order dated March 16, 2022.

3. Included in Attachment K to the Plan (Bates 000728-737) is the Direct Testimony of Christopher J. Goulding. For UES, Mr. Goulding’s testimony (1) presents the Energy

Efficiency component of the System Benefits Charge (“SBC”) that was effective February 14, 2022, and the preliminary rate for effect January 1, 2023; (2) presents and supports the calculation of the UES lost base revenue component of the Systems Benefit Charge proposed for effect May 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022; and (3) presents the total SBC rate including the Electric Assistance Program portion of the SBC. For Northern, Mr. Goulding’s testimony (1) presents the Energy Efficiency Charge that is effective March 1, 2022, and the preliminary rate for effect January 1, 2023 in order to address the passage of HB 549 into law on February 24, 2022; and (2) details how the current Lost Revenue Rate for Northern complies with Order No. 26,560 issued in Docket No. DE 20-092.

4. Mr. Goulding will be out of the country during the week of April 18-22 and is unable to appear for the April 21-22 hearings in person or remotely. As such, Mr. Goulding’s testimony will be adopted in its entirety by Unitil witness Elena Demeris, who is qualified by knowledge, experience, and position to testify to and answer questions regarding the matters discussed in Mr. Goulding’s testimony.

5. Due to a health condition that results in mobility issues, Ms. Demeris is unable to travel to Concord for the April 21-22 hearing.

6. Ms. Demeris can adopt Mr. Goulding’s testimony, respond to direct and cross examination, and answer questions from the Commission on a remote basis. The Commission has conducted many hearings over the past two year on a remote or hybrid basis and is adept at incorporating remote participation by witnesses into the hearing process in an efficient manner. As such, the Company believes that granting this request for a hybrid hearing will not prejudice any of the parties to this docket or the Commission, and will not impede the efficiency of the proceedings.

7. Unitil believes that good cause exists for a hybrid hearing and the Company's request is reasonable under the circumstances, as it is necessary for the safety and health of Unitil's witness and will not cause prejudice to any party to this proceeding or the Commission. The Company notes that its counsel and all other witnesses will be present in person at the hearing. Unitil therefore respectfully requests that the hearings in this case be conducted on a hybrid basis to allow for remote participation by Company witness Elena Demeris.

WHEREFORE, Unitil respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. The hearing in this matter be conducted on a hybrid basis to allow for remote participation by Unitil witness Elena Demeris; and
- B. Grant such further relief as may be just and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.  
NORTHERN UTILITIES, INC.

By their Attorney:



Dated: April 6, 2022

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on March 6, 2022, a copy of the foregoing Motion was electronically served upon the Service List.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick H. Taylor', written over a horizontal line.

Patrick H. Taylor