

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DE 21-030**

**UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.**

**Request for Change in Rates**

**Order on Motion for Clarification**

**O R D E R N O. 26,657**

**July 28, 2022**

In this order the Commission clarifies that the recoupment period for the reconciliation between temporary and permanent rates in this rate case shall be August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023.

**I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On May 3, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 26,623 (May 3, 2022), in which it partially approved a Settlement Agreement submitted in the Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (UES) distribution rate case in the instant docket. On May 25, 2022, UES requested that the Commission, pursuant to N.H. Code of Admin. Proc R. Puc 203.07 and RSA 541:3, provide a second clarification of Order No. 26,623. UES indicated that the Staff of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) assented to the motion. Other parties have not filed responses to UES's motion.

**II. POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES**

**A. UES**

Order No. 26,623 specified that UES could begin recovery of its revenue requirement, pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, in rates effective with service rendered on and after June 1, 2022, "to be reconciled to temporary rates

approved in Order No. 26,484 over a one-year period, from June 1, 2022, through May 31, 2023, consistent with the Settlement Agreement." Order No. 26,623 at 32.

UES requested that, in order to synch with the External Delivery Charge (EDC) recovery mechanism for the recoupment balance specified by Section 10, Subsection 10.1 of the Settlement Agreement, the Commission adjust the 12-month recoupment period to be August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023. UES Motion at 5-6.

UES also advocated for its position regarding the proper calculation methodology for its step increase revenue requirement, which will not be addressed in this Order, for the reasons discussed below. UES Motion at 1-5.

### **B. OCA**

UES stated that OCA has assented to its motion for clarification and amendment of Order No. 26,623. UES Motion at 6.

### **B. Department of Energy**

UES stated that DOE also assented to its motion. UES Motion at 6.

## **II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS**

The Commission is authorized to fix rates after a hearing, upon determining that rates, fares, and charges are just and reasonable. RSA 378:7. In this case, the Company requests that the recoupment period be adjusted to the twelve-month period of August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023, to coincide with the EDC annual rate start date of August 1, 2022. We find that this request is reasonable, and would result in just and reasonable rates, and we approve it.

Regarding the step adjustment calculation issue, the Commission has issued Order No. 26,656 in the 2022 Step Adjustment docket for UES, Docket No. DE 22-026, wherein we have approved the Company's preferred methodology subject to


reconciliation pending the outcome of our upcoming investigation, thereby rendering the Company's request for relief on this matter MOOT.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that Order No. 26,623 is clarified and amended to establish that, in the second ordering clause, "[UES] is hereby authorized to begin recovery of the increase to its revenue requirement...to be reconciled to temporary rates approved in Order No. 26,484 over a one-year period, from August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023, consistent with the Settlement Agreement;" and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that UES shall file properly annotated tariff pages, and appropriately-updated Settlement Agreement schedules, in compliance with this order, as required by N.H. Code Admin. R., Puc Part 1603, no later than 15 days from the issuance of this order.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-eighth day of July, 2022.

  
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Daniel C. Goldner  
Chairman

  
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F. Anne Ross  
Special Commissioner

# Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-030

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Email Addresses

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ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov  
asbury@unitil.com  
Scott.T.Balise@energy.nh.gov  
Jason@transformconsulting.com  
Larry@transformconsulting.com  
kelly@cleanenergynh.org  
rburke@nhla.org  
campbellm@unitil.com  
matthew.deal@chargepoint.com  
paul.b.dexter@energy.nh.gov  
jay.e.dudley@energy.nh.gov  
sdunbar@keyesfox.com  
mateo@transformconsulting.com  
stephen.r.eckberg@energy.nh.gov  
eemerson@primmer.com  
epler@unitil.com  
sam@cleanenergynh.org  
fossumm@unitil.com  
thomas.c.frantz@energy.nh.gov  
josie.gage@oca.nh.gov  
gouldingc@unitil.com  
aimee@transformconsulting.com  
Goksin.Kavlak@brattle.com  
tklaes@blueridgecs.com  
nkrakoff@clf.org  
donald.m.kreis@oca.nh.gov  
Phil ip.W.LaMoreaux@des.nh.gov  
main@unitil.com  
kevin.miller@chargepoint.com  
karen.j.moran@energy.nh.gov  
dmullinax@blueridgecs.com  
nawazelski@unitil.com  
elizabeth.r.nixon@energy.nh.gov  
amanda.o.noonan@energy.nh.gov  
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov  
rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov  
petersonr@unitil.com

Maureen.l.reno@oca.nh.gov  
agustin.ros@brattle.com  
sanem.sergici@brattle.com  
chris@cleanenergynh.org  
taylorp@unitil.com  
stower@nhla.org  
jacqueline.m.trottier@energy.nh.gov  
jvanrossum@clf.org  
nvijaykar@keyesfox.com  
chris@pluggedinstrategies.com  
MWhited@synapse-energy.com  
jrw@psu.edu  
craig.wright@des.nh.gov