

**BEFORE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 22-026

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.

Petition for Step Adjustment

MOTION TO AMEND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

The Department of Energy (“DOE”) pursuant to New Hampshire Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.7, hereby moves the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to amend the existing procedural schedule in this matter to change the hearing date set by the Commission in its Notice of Hearing dated May 3, 2022.

In support of this Motion, the DOE states as follows:

1. In a Notice of Hearing dated May 3, 2022, the Commission scheduled a hearing in this matter for May 17, 2022, to consider a request for approval of a step increase in distribution rates for Unitil Energy Services, Inc. (UES) for effect June 1, 2022.
2. In DE 21-030, the recent UES distribution rate case, the Commission approved a Settlement Agreement which provided for this step increase, subject to review and Commission approval. The Commission approved this Settlement Agreement in Order No. 26,623, issued on May 3, 2022. This Settlement Agreement contemplated about 2 months between the time of approval of the Settlement Agreement establishing this step increase mechanism (April 1) and implementation of the step increase (June 1). The DOE planned to use this 2-month period to examine the step increase request. Although UES provided step increase information on February 28, 2022, consistent with the Settlement Agreement, DOE did not examine those materials in detail because a

- Commission Order approving that Settlement Agreement and establishing the step increase mechanism had yet not been issued.
3. When Order No 26,623 approving the step increase mechanism was issued, DOE began its review of the step increase request. DOE's Audit Division initiated an audit and DOE issued data requests on May 6, with responses requested as soon as possible, but due on May 16, per PUC Rule 203.09(f). DOE conducted a technical session with UES on May 10. DOE plans to issue one more set of data requests in May (after reviewing the responses to its first set), review those responses in early June, and potentially conduct a second technical session in early June.
 4. To allow time for these additional review steps, the DOE respectfully requests that the hearing in this matter be moved to mid-June, with a rate effective date of July 1.
 5. If this request is granted, the step increase will be delayed by one month as compared to what was contemplated under the Settlement Agreement. To dampen the effect of this delay, the Department supports allowing UES to collect the annual revenues anticipated under this step increase (currently requested at \$1,376,786, subject to review and approval) over an 11-month period from July 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023.
 6. UES has indicated that it will not object to this Motion.

WHEREFORE, the Department respectfully requests that the Commission amend the existing procedural schedule in this proceeding by scheduling a hearing in late June, 2022 with a rate effective date of July 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

New Hampshire Department of Energy

By its Attorney,

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