

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

**DE 23-002**

**UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.**

**Proposed Purchase of Receivables Program**

**UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC. MOTION FOR HYBRID HEARING**

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (“UES” or the “Company”) hereby respectfully requests that the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”), pursuant to Puc 203.07, conduct the 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 reasons. In support of this motion, UES states:

1. On February 2, 2023, the Commission issued a “Commencement of Adjudicative Proceeding and Notice of Prehearing Conference” (“Notice”) in this docket observing that on January 10, 2023, UES submitted a proposal for a purchase of receivables (“POR”) program pursuant to RSA 53-E and N.H. Admin. R., PUC 2200.

2. In support of its POR proposal, UES filed the direct testimony of Christopher J. Goulding and S. Elena Demeris and associated schedules.

3. In the Commission’s Notice, the Commission established a prehearing conference date of March 21, 2023. In addition, the Notice provided that the hearing would be held in person, but that the Commission would consider “requests to conduct hearings using a hybrid format to permit remote participation by a specific individual only if the Commission has determined that a sufficient reason has been provided for why that individual would be unable to attend in

person.” Notice at 2. The Commission noted that any party requesting remote participation must do so no later than 15 days prior to the hearing.

4. By this submission, the Company is requesting that Ms. Demeris be permitted to participate in the March 21, 2023 hearing remotely. Due to a health condition that results in mobility issues, Ms. Demeris is unable to travel to Concord for the March 21 hearing. Subject to that limitation, Ms. Demeris is otherwise qualified and capable of participating in the hearing. The Commission has previously granted requests for Ms. Demeris to participate remotely in other Commission hearings,<sup>1</sup> and 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.

5. UES 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 S. Elena Demeris.

WHEREFORE, Unitil respectfully requests that the Commission:

A. Conduct the hearing in this matter on a hybrid basis to allow for remote participation by Company witness S. Elena Demeris; and

B. Grant such further relief as may be just and appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> See October 14, 2022 Procedural Order in Docket No. 22-059; April 11, 2022 Procedural Order in Docket No. DE 20-092.

Respectfully submitted

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

By its Attorney:



Dated: February 3, 2023

Matthew C. Campbell  
Senior Counsel  
Unitil Service Corp.  
6 Liberty Lane West  
Hampton, NH 03842-1720  
Telephone: 603-773-6543  
E-mail: [campbellm@unitil.com](mailto:campbellm@unitil.com)

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on February 3, 2023, a copy of the foregoing was electronically served upon the Service List.



Matthew C. Campbell