

COMMISSIONER
Jared S. Chicoine

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.



TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-3670

Website:
www.energy.nh.gov

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

July 12, 2023

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DE 23-002 Unutil Energy Systems, Inc. Proposed Purchase of Receivables Program,
Parties' Status Report to the Commission and Request for Limited Stay with Expedited Review by July 14, 2023, submitted by the NH Department of Energy

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Now comes the New Hampshire Department of Energy ("the Department") and pursuant to the approved procedural schedule, submits this *Status Report* on behalf of all the parties to this docket, i.e., Unutil Energy Systems Inc. ("Unutil"); NRG Retail Companies ("NRG");¹ and Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire ("CPCNH") (hereinafter "the Parties" unless otherwise stated). See Commission's Procedural Order (March 30, 2023).

The Parties have held several technical sessions, and Unutil has responded to multiple data requests from the Department, from NRG, and from CPCNH. The Parties have reached agreement on a number of issues and anticipate reaching an agreed upon settlement. At the same time, the Department, NRG, and CPCNH are engaged in dockets with other utilities that also address those other utilities' purchase of receivables ("POR") programs. See Docket No. DE 23-003, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (hereinafter "Liberty"); Docket No. DE 23-004 Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (hereinafter "Eversource").

Given the many similarities among Dockets No. DE 23-003, DE 23-004, and this docket, Docket No. DE 23-002, the Parties, Liberty, and Eversource, expect to hold a joint discussion during the week of July 17th to discuss common issues and ideally achieve consistency/uniformity among the three utilities' proposed POR programs, where possible. The docket participants are currently engaged in finding a workable date.

The Parties to this docket therefore respectfully request a short stay in this proceeding to allow for the larger discussion. The Parties' *Joint Motion to Stay and Request for Expedited Review By July 14, 2023* is enclosed with this letter.

¹ The NRG Retail Companies are: Direct Energy Services, LLC; Direct Energy Business, LLC; Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC; Reliant Energy Northeast LLC; and XOOM Energy New Hampshire, LLC.

The Parties propose that the hearing date previously established as the “Rebuttal Hearing Date,” that is 9 a.m. on September 12, 2023, become the new hearing date, and that the Settlement Track hearing, scheduled for July 25, 2023, be canceled. Following the larger discussion, to include the three utilities, CPCNH, NRG, and the Department, the Parties to this docket will file a new proposed procedural schedule to identify the settlement filing(s) date, and any other procedural dates that may be necessary.

The Department is filing this *Status Report* and *Joint Motion to Stay And Request For Expedited Review by July 14, 2023* on behalf of all the parties to this docket, by and through counsel, Matthew Campbell (Unitil), Joey Lee Miranda (NRG), and Clifton Below (CPCNH). This request is consistent with the requirements of Admin Rule Puc 203.07.

The Parties respectfully request the Commission consider the motion to stay and issue a decision by Friday, July 14, 2023. A Commission order by that date will afford the Parties time to confer and propose amendments to the currently approved procedural schedule, should that be necessary. The Parties recognizes the tight timeframe associated with this request and appreciate the Commission’s consideration.

Consistent with the Commission’s current practices, this letter is being filed only in electronic form.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer

Mary E. Schwarzer
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner
Department of Energy

cc: Service List

ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov

alexandra.k.ladwig@energy.nh.gov

amanda.o.noonan@energy.nh.gov

campbellm@unitil.com

Clifton.Below@CPCNH.org

demeris@unitil.com

elizabeth.r.nixon@energy.nh.gov

Energy-Litigation@energy.nh.gov

golding@communitychoicepartners.com

gouldingc@unitil.com

henry@cpcnh.org

jmiranda@rc.com

main@unitil.com

mandymerrill60@gmail.com

mary.e.schwarzer@energy.nh.gov

Mathews@unitil.com

ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov

pentzj@unitil.com

Scott.T.Balise@energy.nh.gov

thomas.c.frantz@energy.nh.gov

SCOTT T BALISE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 SOUTH FRUIT ST STE 10
CONCORD NH 03301
scott.t.balise@energy.nh.gov

HENRY HERNDON
henry@cpcnh.org

JEFF PENTZ
UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS INC
pentzj@unitil.com

CLIFTON BELOW
COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
clifton.below@cpcnh.org

ALEXANDRA K LADWIG
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
alexandra.k.ladwig@energy.nh.gov

MARY E SCHWARZER
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 SOUTH FRUIT ST STE 10
CONCORD NH 03301
mary.e.schwarzer@energy.nh.gov

MATTHEW CAMPBELL
UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS INC
6 LIBERTY LANE WEST
HAMPTON NH 03842
campbellm@unitil.com

DANIEL MAIN
NORTHERN UTILITIES INC
6 LIBERTY LANE WEST
HAMPTON NH 03842
main@unitil.com

ELENA DEMERIS
UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS INC
6 LIBERTY LANE WEST
HAMPTON NH 03842
demeris@unitil.com

GARY MATTHEWS
UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS INC
mathews@unitil.com

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 SOUTH FRUIT ST STE 10
CONCORD NH 03301
energy-litigation@energy.nh.gov

AMANDA MERRILL
mandymerrill60@gmail.com

THOMAS C FRANTZ
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 SOUTH FRUIT ST STE 10
CONCORD NH 03301
thomas.c.frantz@energy.nh.gov

JOEY LEE MIRANDA
ROBINSON & COLE LLP
280 TURNBULL ST
HARTFORD CT 06103-3597
jmiranda@rc.com

SAMUEL V GOLDING
COMMUNITY CHOICE PARTNERS
12 SOUTH SPRING ST
2ND FLOOR
CONCORD NH 03301
golding@communitychoicepartners.com

LIZ R NIXON
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 SOUTH FRUIT ST STE 10
CONCORD NH 03301
elizabeth.r.nixon@energy.nh.gov

CHRISTOPHER GOULDING
UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS INC
6 LIBERTY LANE WEST
HAMPTON NH 03842
gouldingc@unitil.com

OCA LITIGATION
OCA LITIGATION
21 SOUTH FRUIT ST STE 18
CONCORD NH 03301
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov