

**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 September 20, 2023 hearing 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” in this docket observing that on January 10, 2023, UES submitted a proposal for a purchase of receivables (“POR”) program.

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

3. On February 3, 2023, the Company requested that the hearings in this matter be conducted on a hybrid basis to allow participation by a Company witness who cannot appear in person due to health reasons. Specifically, due to a health condition that results in mobility issues, Ms. Demeris is unable to travel to Concord for in-person hearings. 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.¹

4. On February 21, 2023, the Commission issued a Procedural Order granting the Company's motion for a hybrid hearing.

5. The Company understood the Commission's February 21st Order granting the Company's motion for a hybrid hearing to apply the hybrid format to all hearings in this matter.² However, at the time of this Motion, Ms. Demeris has not received a link to participate remotely in today's hearing. The Company has since revisited the Commission's February 21st Order and now understands that the Commission's Order could be read to apply only to the pre-hearing conference, which was held on March 21, 2023. Therefore, in the interest of clarity, the Company is filing this Motion to request that today's hearing also be conducted on a hybrid basis.

6. UES believes that good cause exists for a hybrid hearing and for the Commission to waive (if necessary) the requirement that requests for hybrid hearings be made no later than fifteen days prior to the hearing date. Specifically, the Company's request is reasonable under the circumstances, as it is necessary for the safety and health of Unutil'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. Unutil therefore

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

² See Cover Letter Conveying Settlement Agreement, n. 1 (filed September 6, 2023) (explain that Unutil's witness S. Elena Demeris will appear at the September 20th hearing remotely pursuant to the Commission's February 21, 2023 Procedural Order on Unutil's Motion for Remote Participation); Joint Exhibit List, n. 1 (filed September 11, 2023) (explaining that Ms. Demeris will be appearing at the September 20th hearing remotely pursuant to the Commission's February 21, 2023 Procedural Order granting Unutil Energy Systems, Inc.'s Motion for Remote Participation).

respectfully requests that the hearing on September 20, 2023 be conducted on a hybrid basis to allow for remote participation by Company witness S. Elena Demeris.

7. In the alternative, if the Commission declines to grant the Company's request for a hybrid hearing format, UES respectfully requests that Mr. Goulding be permitted to adopt the joint testimony that he co-sponsored with Ms. Demeris, in its entirety, for purposes of testifying at the September 20, 2023 hearing.

WHEREFORE, Unitil respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Conduct the September 20, 2023 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.

Respectfully submitted

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

By its Attorney:



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Dated: September 20, 2023

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on September 20, 2023, a copy of the foregoing was electronically served upon the Service List.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Matthew C. Campbell