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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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June 20, 2024

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

Re: DE 24-077 Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Petition for Approval of Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factor and Proposed Tariff Changes; Parties' Assented-To Proposed Procedural Schedule and Letter Requesting Extension of Deadline for Department of Energy Position Statement

Dear Chairman Goldner:

On June 6, 2024, the Commission issued a Commencement of Adjudicative Proceeding and Notice of Prehearing Conference and Hearing Order in the above-captioned docket. The Order set a hearing date of July 30, 2024, and requested that the New Hampshire Department of Energy ("DOE" or "Department") file its position regarding Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.'s ("Unitil" or "Company") petition, including the reasons for this position, on or before July 16, 2024.

On June 14, 2024, Unitil filed a Petition for Approval of Annual Stranded Cost Recovery and External Delivery Charge Reconciliation and Proposed Tariff Changes, which was docketed as DE 24-080. Unitil also filed on June 14, 2024, a Motion to Consolidate Docket No. DE 24-077 and DE 24-080 (which had not yet been docketed as of filing of the Motion). Unitil's petitions in both DE 24-077 and DE 24-080 requested rates effective August 1, 2024, and noted that the Commission had previously heard the Company's equivalent 2023 petitions together in Docket No. DE 23-057. The Office of the Consumer Advocate ("OCA") assented to the Motion, and the Department took no position on the Motion as it had not yet had opportunity to review Unitil's petition filed in DE 24-080.

Pending the Commission's decision on Unitil's Motion to Consolidate; the Department, Unitil, and OCA (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties") conferred to develop a proposed procedural schedule that allows for review of both petitions on a parallel track. Due to the additional time and resources required to thoroughly review and develop a position on Unitil's petition in DE 24-080 along with DE 24-077, the Department requests that the Commission extend the deadline for the Department's position statement in DE 24-077 from July 16, 2024, to July 23, 2024.

The below proposed procedural schedule amends the original due date for the Department's position statement and maintains the July 30, 2024, hearing date as

scheduled. Should the Commission grant Unitil's Motion to Consolidate, the Parties anticipate that the below schedule would apply to both petitions.

The Parties' assented-to proposed procedural schedule is as follows:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Data Requests to Unitil Due	Friday, June 28, 2024
Data Responses Due	Wednesday, July 10, 2024
Technical Session (Remote)	Tuesday, July 16, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
DOE Position Statement Due	Tuesday, July 23, 2024
Hearing	Tuesday, July 30, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ Alexandra K. Ladwig

Alexandra K. Ladwig
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner
Department of Energy

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