STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DE 22-026

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

Petition for Step Adjustment

Procedural Order Re: Motion to Amend Procedural Schedule

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (Unitil) filed its 2022 step adjustment petition on February 28, 2022, which was docketed in the above-captioned action. On May 3, 2022, the Commission issued a notice of commencement of adjudicative proceeding and notice of hearing scheduling a hearing on May 17, 2022, based on its approval (in Order No. 26,623) of the settlement agreement filed in Docket No. DE 21-030, which provided that, if approved, Unitil's step adjustment would take effect on June 1, 2022. No procedural schedule has been issued in this matter, other than the scheduling of the final hearing.

On May 12, 2022, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed a "Motion to Amend Procedural Schedule," which included a late request to postpone the May 17 hearing to a date sometime in June 2022, *see* N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.13(a), with a revised effective date for the step adjustment rates of July 1, 2022. The DOE indicated that it needed additional time to review Unitil's step adjustment proposal, and that it would support Unitil's collection of its step adjustment rates over an 11-month collection period (from July 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023) to compensate for this delay. The DOE represented that Unitil did not object to its motion.

The DOE's failure to comply with Puc 203.13 is waived in this instance, and its late request to postpone the May 17 hearing is GRANTED. *See* N.H. Admin. R., Puc 201.05. The hearing in this matter has been rescheduled to Monday, June 13, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., the last date in June that is available on the Commission's hearings calendar. Three hours

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shall be allotted for this hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the

attached hearing guidelines, which have been revised to extend the filing deadlines to give

the parties additional time. The DOE and any interested parties shall file their written

responses to Unitil's 2022 step adjustment petition, and Unitil shall file its updated

schedules to incorporate a revised 11-month collection period, no later than Wednesday,

June 8, 2022.

So ordered, this thirteenth day of May, 2022.

Daniel C. Goldner Presiding Officer

Chairman

Pradip K. Chattopadhyay

Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-026

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