

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 19-033

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

Petition for Approval of Proposed Time of Use Study

ORDER OF NOTICE

On February 13, 2019, Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (Unitil) filed a petition for approval of a proposed time-of-use (TOU) study along with a proposal to recover costs related to the study. Unitil's petition was filed in part to comply with the requirements of Order No. 26,029 (June 23, 2017), issued in Docket DE 16-576, the Commission's alternative net metering tariff development proceeding.

In that order, the Commission directed Unitil and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy each to develop and propose a TOU pilot program open to residential and small commercial customers, both with distributed generation (DG) and without DG, to contain a statistically significant number of participants in each category. *Id.* at 62. The Commission noted that "a well-designed TOU pilot program should generate detailed data regarding customer behavior and utility cost and rate impacts related to time-varying rates, and that data can inform future net metering and general rate designs, including a potential transition to TOU rate alternatives for all customer rate classes." *Id.* The Commission also stated that utilities would "be permitted to recover prudently-incurred costs of required metering upgrades, study expenses, and pilot program implementation." *Id.* at 51.

Unitil's petition and any subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2019/19-033.html>.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether Unitil's proposed TOU study is likely to generate detailed data regarding customer behavior and utility cost and rate impacts related to time-varying rates that are sufficient to inform future net metering and general rate designs; whether the estimated cost of Unitil's proposed TOU study is prudent and reasonable; and whether Unitil's plan to recover the cost of outside consulting services for the proposed TOU study through its external delivery charge is just and reasonable under RSA 378:7. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on March 26, 2019 at 10:00 am, at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Unitil, the Staff of the Commission, and any Intervenors shall hold a Technical Session to review the petition; and it is

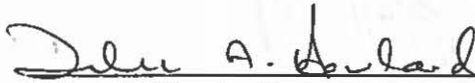
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Unitil shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than March 12, 2019, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of

the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before March 23, 2019; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Unitil and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before March 21, 2019, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before March 26, 2019.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-seventh day of February, 2019.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.