

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-139

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.

**2022 Reliability Enhancement Program
and Vegetation Management Program Plan**

Order Accepting 2022 Plan

O R D E R N O. 26,681

September 12, 2022

In this order the Commission accepts the 2022 Plan subject to reconciliation in 2023 when final Reliability Enhancement Program and Vegetation Management Program costs for 2022 will be reported.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (Unitil) filed its 2022 Reliability Enhancement Program (REP) and Vegetation Management Program Plan (VMP) on November 16, 2021, and its reconciliation of its 2021 REP and VMP on April 1, 2022, with an update for 2021 filed on June 8, 2022. The update showed an over-collection which Unitil requested be applied to carryover cycle trim work.

II. BACKGROUND

In Order No. 26,623 (May 3, 2022) in Docket DE 21-030 the Unitil Rate Case, the Commission approved a Settlement Agreement which provided for a revenue requirement in base rates for the VMP, REP, and the Storm Resiliency Program (SRP) of \$5,275,666 (total utility costs less anticipated third-party reimbursements), until changed in a future base distribution rate case.

In Order No. 26,655 (July 28, 2022) in Docket 22-038 the Unitil Stranded Cost and External Delivery Charge Reconciliation Docket, the Commission, approved the rollover of the \$531,278 in VMP-REP overcollection monies to fund the 2021 carryover work, as an efficient way of covering ongoing program needs, subject to reconciliation. Id. at 7.

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

Pursuant to the Commission's general supervisory powers over the public utilities it regulates, the Commission reviews Unitil's proposed spending plan for REP and VMP during 2022. See RSA 374:1, :2, :3, :4, and :5. We have reviewed the proposed spending plan for 2022 and find it reasonable. The projected costs of this plan will be reconciled to actual costs in the update to be filed on or before April 1, 2023. At that time the Commission will consider recovery of any over- or under-collections through Unitil's external delivery charge. The final REP and VMP cost reconciliation for 2022 will be subject to review and audit by the department of energy.

The Commission directs Unitil to submit the actual to proposed costs comparison for the REP and VMP 2021 Report along with the reconciliation and a comparison of actual to proposed costs for 2022, to facilitate the Commission's review of the 2022 reconciliation report.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

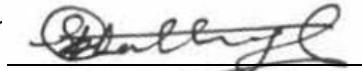
ORDERED, Unitil's 2022 REP and VMP report is accepted, with final planned costs subject to reconciliation to actual costs by Unitil, review and audit by the Department of Energy, and approval by the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Unitil shall submit its 2021 REP and VMP reconciliation with its 2022 REP and VMP reconciliation with clarification of any deviations from planned spending to allow a year over year comparison.

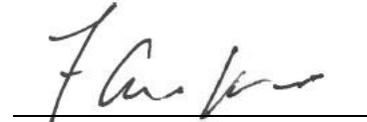
By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twelfth day
of September, 2022



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



F. Anne Ross
Special Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-139

Printed: 9/12/2022

Email Addresses

ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov
Energy-Litigation@energy.nh.gov
epler@unitil.com
elizabeth.r.nixon@energy.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
taylorp@unitil.com