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From: Dennis Herrick [mailto:dennis_herrick@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 9:56 AM

To: Noonan, Amanda; Martin, Christina; grayno@unionleader.com; Dennis Herrick

Subject: Consumer Comment for NH PUC Docket DE 10-055

To: NH PUC

I'm a former Unitil customer and shareholder. I would just like to remind the Public Utilities Commission of the Safe Harbor statement Unitil attaches to all of their financial reports.

"This press release contains forward-looking statements, which are subject to the inherent uncertainties in predicting future results and conditions. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements. Certain factors that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those projected in these forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to the following: variations in weather; changes in the regulatory environment; customers' preferences on energy sources; general economic conditions; increased competition; fluctuations in supply, demand, transmission capacity and prices for energy commodities; and other uncertainties, all of which are difficult to predict, and many of which are beyond the control of Unitil Corporation."

The financial situation Unitil finds itself in should not come as a surprise. Unitil is obviously trying to use this rate increases to insulate itself from the many vagaries in the electric and market. Since residential ratepayers have no choice, we should not be subject to higher rates due to:

- 1) "variations in weather"
- 2) "customers' preferences on energy sources"
- 3) "general economic conditions"
- 4) Unitil's poor financial planning and execution.

Unitil is well aware of the changing financial conditions in their market. In fact, I'd be pretty red faced if I tried to sell this rate increase to customers and the NH PUC. Unitil should immediately:

- 1) Stop all wind energy testing in it's service area. All ratepayers are not served by these experiments.
- 2) Stop all investments in solar energy at the Stratham Fire Station. All ratepayers are not served by this.
- 3) Stop all investments in solar hot water at the Concord Housing Authority's Crutchfield project.
Again, all ratepayers are not served by these experiments.

- 4) Stop all involvement with the solar energy project at the Exeter High School. Again, same reason.
- 5) Cancel all contracts with the public relations firm, O'Neill and Associates of Boston. What have they accomplished?
- 6) Cancel all contracts with the public relations firm, Calypso Communications of Portsmouth.
This cost is pointless.
- 7) Reduce or suspend all stockholder dividends. Just google top-yielding electric utility stocks and depending on the analyst, Unitil is always in the top 10 or 25.
- 8) Cut executive pay, stock grants, options and perks until the unwarranted bonuses paid out in 2009 are paid back.
- 9) Get back to basics like infrastructure maintenance and tree trimming immediately.
- 10) Take out a 20 million dollar insurance policy to cover future storm damage.
- 11) Tell your Attorney Dewey and LeBouef to settle the Class Action lawsuit in Massachusetts immediately.
- 12) Reduce non-productive staff, especially in Public Relations and Communications.

This is what's really in the "public interest". Remember your "Mission Statement", PUC.

Dennis Herrick
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