

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. DE 16-384
UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.
Request for Change in Rates

PETITION TO INTERVENE
OF ACADIA CENTER

Pursuant to the Commission's Order Suspending Proposed Tariff and Scheduling Prehearing Conference and Temporary Rate Hearing dated May 12, 2016 ("Order"), N.H. Admin. Rules, Puc 203.17, and in accordance with the standards of RSA 541-A:32, Acadia Center hereby submits this petition to intervene in the above-captioned docket ("Petition").

In support of its petition, Acadia Center states the following:

1. Acadia Center is a non-profit, research and advocacy organization committed to advancing the clean energy future in the Northeast. Acadia Center is at the forefront of efforts to build clean, low carbon and consumer friendly economies. Acadia Center's approach is characterized by reliable information, comprehensive advocacy and problem solving through innovation and collaboration.
2. As set forth in the Order, Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. ("Unitil") filed a petition on April 29, 2016 for authority to implement new permanent rates and to replace certain pages of current tariffs with proposed revised tariffs ("Unitil petition").
3. As stated in the direct testimony of H. Edwin Overcast ("Overcast Testimony"), the Unitil petition includes significant changes to the design of retail electricity rates. This includes a substantial increase in the per month customer charge for the domestic rate (Overcast Testimony at 64) and a new customer class with a three-part rate for distributed generation ("DG") customers (Overcast Testimony at 76).
4. Acadia Center has been active in New Hampshire and other northeastern states in researching and promoting consumer-friendly rate design that preserves incentives to use energy wisely and gives consumers greater control over energy bills. Acadia Center experts have researched and written about utility rate design in a distributed energy future, including its 2015 resource,

“UtilityVision,” and “Utility Rate Design Principles for Advancing a Consumer-Friendly Energy System.”².

5. Acadia Center has participated in public utility dockets relating to electric rate design in Massachusetts, including Department of Public Utilities Docket 15-155, Connecticut, including Public Utility Regulatory Authority Dockets No. 14-05-06 and 16-02-30, and in Rhode Island, including Public Utility Commission Docket No. 4568.

6. Acadia Center has considerable experience and expertise in matters relating to New Hampshire energy and electric utility policy. Acadia Center participated as a stakeholder in the 10-Year State Energy Strategy process pursuant to RSA 4:E. At the Public Utility Commission, Acadia Center is currently participating in the ongoing docket related to an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, DE 15-137, and is a member of the Grid Modernization Working Group established in IR 15-296.

7. To build consumer-friendly and clean energy systems, Acadia Center spends considerable time, effort, and monetary resources working to ensure that utility rate design preserves incentives to use energy wisely in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, and New York.

8. Collectively, Acadia Center’s staff has a combined several decades of experience on the impact of utility rate design on consumer adoption of energy efficiency and clean energy technologies, and the ability of consumers to control their energy bills. As such, Acadia Center’s participation in this proceeding is in the interests of justice.

9. Accordingly, Acadia Center’s rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by this proceeding. Allowing Acadia Center to intervene will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings as demonstrated by substantial contributions and participation in other dockets.

WHEREFORE, Acadia Center respectfully requests that it be granted full intervenor status in this proceeding.

¹ See: <http://acadiacenter.org/utilityvision/>

² See: <http://acadiacenter.org/document/utility-rate-design-principles/>

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. B. Hawes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ellen Hawes

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Dated: May 27, 2016

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing petition has on this 27th day of May 2016 been sent by email to the service list in Docket No. DE 16- 384.

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Ellen Hawes  
Senior Analyst, Energy Systems and Carbon Markets  
Acadia Center