

DE 99-082

CONCORD ELECTRIC COMPANY AND
EXETER & HAMPTON ELECTRIC COMPANY

1999/2000 Conservation Charges

Order Suspending Proposed Tariff Pages

O R D E R N O. 23,238

June 21, 1999

On May 28, 1999, Concord Electric Company and Exeter & Hampton Electric Company (collectively UNITIL) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a petition to revise their Conservation Charges for the period July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 and to expand their Demand Side Management (DSM) program offerings. By Order No. 22,948 (June 1, 1998), the Commission allowed UNITIL to phase-out all their DSM programs except for the Residential Social Services Program, a program aimed to provide energy efficiency measures to low-income customers.

UNITIL proposes to continue the Residential Social Services Program and to introduce the following programs to their customers: TumbleWash, Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire's WasteCap Resource Conservation Network program, and Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc.'s Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Initiatives. Cost-effectiveness analyses were not provided with the filing.

A comparison of the current to the proposed

Conservation Charges follows:

Concord Electric Company:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Residential	\$0.00011/kWh	\$0.00065/kWh
Small C&I	(\$0.00042)/kWh	\$0.00044/kWh
Large C&I	(\$0.00013)/kWh	\$0.00035/kWh

Exeter & Hampton Electric Company:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Residential	(\$0.00006)/kWh	\$0.00040/kWh
Small C&I	\$0.00038/kWh	\$0.00055/kWh
Large C&I	(\$0.00013)/kWh	\$0.00044/kWh

The proposed Conservation Charges include a reconciliation of prior period over/underrecoveries, projected expenditures for the Residential Social Services Program and the other new programs, projected expenditures for ongoing regulatory reporting, and recovery of lost base revenues.

On June 18, 1999, Commission Staff (Staff) recommended that the filing be temporarily suspended pending the Commission's hearings and subsequent order on ratepayer-funded, energy efficiency programs which will occur after the Energy Efficiency Working Group has submitted its final report due on June 30, 1999. Therefore, Staff recommended that the proposed tariff pages be suspended. Staff recommended that UNITIL continue to offer the Residential Social Services Program and to collect their currently effective Conservation Charges which were designed to collect 1998/1999 DSM-related costs. Should the current Conservation Charges be insufficient to fund ongoing costs, Staff further recommended that UNITIL file revised

Conservation Charges with the Commission.

We have reviewed Staff's request and will suspend the proposed Conservation Charges. We agree with Staff that the future direction of ratepayer-funded, energy efficiency programs will be addressed in the near future and that temporarily suspending the filing is reasonable. Therefore, we will hold UNITIL's filing in abeyance. We direct UNITIL to continue to offer their Residential Social Services Program and, if necessary, to file revised Conservation Charges to adequately fund the ongoing costs associated with their current DSM programs.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the following tariff pages are suspended:

Concord Electric Company's:

NHPUC No. 12-Electricity Seventh Revised Page 26

Exeter & Hampton Electric Company's:

NHPUC No. 17-Electricity Seventh Revised Page 26;

and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that UNITIL shall continue to offer its Residential Social Services Program and to collect the Conservation Charges as approved in Order No. 22,948.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New
Hampshire this twenty-first day of June, 1999.

Douglas L. Patch
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Thomas B. Getz
Executive Director and Secretary