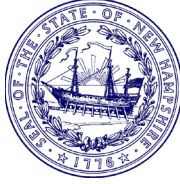


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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

March 12, 2024

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: DE 23-092 Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. 2024 Reliability Enhancement Program and Vegetation Management Program Plan – DOE Request for Extension of Time

Dear Chairman Goldner:

On November 17, 2023, Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (“UES” or “the Company”) filed its 2024 Reliability Enhancement Program and Vegetation Management Program (“VMP”) Report (“Report”). On November 22, 2023, the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) requested that the New Hampshire Department of Energy (“Department”) submit its analysis of the Report with a recommendation for Commission action by January 30, 2024. On January 29, 2024, the Department requested an extension for submission of its analysis and recommendation pertaining to the Company’s Report to March 15, 2024, and on February 15, 2024, the Commission granted the Department’s request.

While in the process of reviewing the Report, the Department noticed some potential errors relative to the proposed costs for VMP activities and for the Vegetation Storm Resiliency Program. (See Page 4 of the Report, Paragraph 2.2, and Table 1). The Department sought clarification and was told by the Company on March 6, 2024, that the errors affected the total budget amounts portrayed, but that the underlying line items are correct. In addition, on March 4, 2024, the Department issued data requests to UES and requested responses on or before March 11, 2024. These data requests have not been answered as of this date.

Accordingly, the Department needs additional time beyond March 15<sup>th</sup> to review the Company’s responses to the data requests and complete its analysis of the proposed plans. Therefore, the Department respectfully requests that the time period for the Department’s analysis and recommendation pertaining to the Company’s Report be further extended until April 5, 2024.

The relief requested is consistent with Puc 202.04 requirements. The Department has contacted the Company and the Office of the Consumer Advocate relative to this

request to extend time. The Company does not object and the Office of the Consumer Advocate has assented to the relief requested herein. In addition, this request will not unduly delay the proceeding, as additional time is essential to allow the Department to file a complete analysis and recommendation. The Department will be caused undue hardship or inconvenience if the extension is not granted, and therefore the extension sought is reasonable and appropriate.

Pursuant to current Commission policy, this filing is being made electronically only.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Marie-Helene Bailinson*

Marie-Helene Bailinson-Georges, Esq.  
Hearings Examiner/Staff Attorney

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