



August 7, 2013

**BY E-MAIL AND OVERNIGHT MAIL**

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director and Secretary  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: Docket No. IR 13-086<sup>038</sup>

Dear Director Howland:

Please accept this letter as the comments of Unitil Energy Systems, Inc., Northern Utilities, Inc. and Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc. (together "the Companies") with respect to the Commission Staff's Second Revised Straw Proposal to the Commission, dated July 30, 2013.

At this time, the Companies have no objection to the Staff's proposal. We are, however, unable to commit to supporting any particular or specific piece of proposed legislation without further investigation and consideration. The Companies' primary concern in this matter is that, to the extent that Commission expenses assessed against public utilities pursuant to RSA 363-A:2 may change significantly from year to year, a reasonable opportunity be provided to recover the increased amount not already factored into base rates. The Companies remain committed to working cooperatively and constructively with the Commission and interested parties to address the assessment issue in a fair and equitable manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Epler".

Gary Epler

Attorney for Unitil Energy Systems, Inc., Northern Utilities, Inc. and Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc.

cc: Service List, IR 13-086 (by e-mail only)

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Gary Epler  
Chief Regulatory Counsel  
epler@unitil.com

6 Liberty Lane West  
Hampton, NH 03842

T 603.773.6440 F 603.773.6740 [www.unitil.com](http://www.unitil.com)