

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-030

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

Request for Change in Rates

Order on Motion for Clarification

O R D E R N O. 26,657

July 28, 2022

In this order the Commission clarifies that the recoupment period for the reconciliation between temporary and permanent rates in this rate case shall be August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 3, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 26,623 (May 3, 2022), in which it partially approved a Settlement Agreement submitted in the Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (UES) distribution rate case in the instant docket. On May 25, 2022, UES requested that the Commission, pursuant to N.H. Code of Admin. Proc R. Puc 203.07 and RSA 541:3, provide a second clarification of Order No. 26,623. UES indicated that the Staff of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) assented to the motion. Other parties have not filed responses to UES's motion.

II. POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES

A. UES

Order No. 26,623 specified that UES could begin recovery of its revenue requirement, pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, in rates effective with service rendered on and after June 1, 2022, "to be reconciled to temporary rates

approved in Order No. 26,484 over a one-year period, from June 1, 2022, through May 31, 2023, consistent with the Settlement Agreement." Order No. 26,623 at 32.

UES requested that, in order to synch with the External Delivery Charge (EDC) recovery mechanism for the recoupment balance specified by Section 10, Subsection 10.1 of the Settlement Agreement, the Commission adjust the 12-month recoupment period to be August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023. UES Motion at 5-6.

UES also advocated for its position regarding the proper calculation methodology for its step increase revenue requirement, which will not be addressed in this Order, for the reasons discussed below. UES Motion at 1-5.

B. OCA

UES stated that OCA has assented to its motion for clarification and amendment of Order No. 26,623. UES Motion at 6.

B. Department of Energy

UES stated that DOE also assented to its motion. UES Motion at 6.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission is authorized to fix rates after a hearing, upon determining that rates, fares, and charges are just and reasonable. RSA 378:7. In this case, the Company requests that the recoupment period be adjusted to the twelve-month period of August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023, to coincide with the EDC annual rate start date of August 1, 2022. We find that this request is reasonable, and would result in just and reasonable rates, and we approve it.

Regarding the step adjustment calculation issue, the Commission has issued Order No. 26,656 in the 2022 Step Adjustment docket for UES, Docket No. DE 22-026, wherein we have approved the Company's preferred methodology subject to

reconciliation pending the outcome of our upcoming investigation, thereby rendering the Company's request for relief on this matter MOOT.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Order No. 26,623 is clarified and amended to establish that, in the second ordering clause, "[UES] is hereby authorized to begin recovery of the increase to its revenue requirement...to be reconciled to temporary rates approved in Order No. 26,484 over a one-year period, from August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023, consistent with the Settlement Agreement;" and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that UES shall file properly annotated tariff pages, and appropriately-updated Settlement Agreement schedules, in compliance with this order, as required by N.H. Code Admin. R., Puc Part 1603, no later than 15 days from the issuance of this order.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-eighth day of July, 2022.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


F. Anne Ross
Special Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-030

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