

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 22-017

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

2022 Default Service

COMMENCEMENT OF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING AND NOTICE OF HEARING

On March 21, 2022, Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (Unitil) filed with the Commission a notification of its proposed 2022 default energy service schedules. The schedules indicate the dates for: (1) issuance of requests for proposals (RFPs) for power supply, (2) submission of indicative and final bids, (3) filing of proposals with the Commission, and (4) issuance of the anticipated Commission orders on petitions for approval. Unitil provided the applicable information for the six-month period beginning June 1, 2022, and the six-month period beginning December 1, 2022. The initial filing and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at www.puc.nh.gov/regulatory/Docketbk/2022/22-017.html.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Unitil conducts its default service solicitations pursuant to the process approved by the Commission in Order Nos. 24,511 (September 9, 2005) and 24,921 (December 12, 2008), as modified by Order No. 25,397 (July 31, 2012). In Order No. 25,397, the Commission approved Unitil's proposal to modify its energy service procurement process as follows: (1) the default service period for customers taking energy service supply from Unitil begins on June 1 and December 1 of each year; (2) for G1 (large commercial and industrial) customers, pricing is based on variable

monthly prices and solicitations occur every 6 months; and (3) for non-G1 (residential, small commercial, and outdoor lighting) customers, solicitations occur every 6 months, and pricing results in fixed monthly rates for the six-month period. In addition, for non-G1 customers, the load is separately acquired, and priced, for both the residential customer group, and the small commercial and outdoor lighting customer group. For G1 customers, Unitil solicits variable pricing that passes through energy costs in the form of real-time locational market prices for the New Hampshire Load Zone.

On February 22, 2022, Unitil issued an RFP for energy service power supply for all three customer groups for the six-month period beginning June 1, 2022. Unitil will file a petition requesting approval of this solicitation on March 25, 2022 and has requested that an order issue by April 1, 2022. Unitil will issue the second RFP on August 23, 2022 for the six-month period beginning December 1, 2022, with the associated regulatory filing to take place on September 23, 2022, requesting that the order approving the solicitation be issued by September 30, 2022.

II. ISSUES PRESENTED

The filing presents, *inter alia*, issues related to whether the power supply procurement is consistent with RSA 374-F:3, V(c)-(e) and Order Nos. 24,511, 24,921, and 25,397; and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable as required by RSA 374:2, and RSA 378:5 and :7.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that an adjudicative proceeding be commenced for the purpose of reviewing and resolving the foregoing issues pursuant to RSA chapter 541-A, RSA 374-F:3, V(c)-(e), RSA 374:2, and RSA 378:5 and :7, and the Commission's procedural rules; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a hearing in this matter at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on March 31, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Three hours shall be allotted for this hearing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any entity or individual may petition to intervene and seek to be admitted as a party in this proceeding. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense; and it is,

FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any entity or individual seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to Unitil and any other parties on the service list, on or before March 29, 2022. The petition shall state the facts demonstrating how the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before March 30, 2022; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that parties shall file any proposed exhibits, written testimony, motions, or other documents intended to become part of the record in this proceeding with the Commission. Pursuant to the secretarial letter issued on March 17, 2020, which is posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Secretarial%20Letters/20200317-SecLtr-Temp-Changes-in-Filing-Requirements.pdf>, all Commission rules requiring the filing of paper copies are suspended until further notice. Parties may elect to submit any filing in electronic form unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Filings will be considered filed as of the time the electronic copy is received by the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that routine procedural inquiries may be made by contacting the Commission's Clerk's Office at (603) 271-2431 or ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov. All requests to the Commission should be made in a written pleading filed with the Commission. Unless otherwise authorized by law, *ex parte* communications are prohibited; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, Unitil shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than one business day after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before March 28, 2022. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than two business days after the date of issue; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any hearings in this matter shall be conducted in accordance with the attached hearing guidelines.

So ordered, this twenty-fifth day of March, 2022.



Daniel C. Goldner
Presiding Officer
Chairman

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made no later than one week prior to the scheduled event.

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 22-017

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Email Addresses

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