

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOINT SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY

OF

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(Kingston Solar Project Panel)

Exhibit SP-1 (Supplemental)

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

Docket No. DE 22-073

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Exhibits:

- Exhibit SP-2 (Final EPC RFP)
- Exhibit SP-3 (RFP Response Narrative)(Confidential)
- Exhibit SP-4 (RFP Response Pricing and Performance)(Confidential)
- Exhibit SP-5 (RFP Question Responses)(Confidential)
- Exhibit SP-6 (Peak Hour Calculation)(Confidential)
- Exhibit SP-7 (Updated Benefit-Cost Analysis)(Confidential)
- Exhibit SP-8 (Updated Bill Impact Analysis)

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q. Please introduce the members of the Kingston Solar Project Panel.**

3 A. The members of the Kingston Solar Project Panel (“SP”) and the sponsors of this
4 Supplemental Testimony are Kevin E. Sprague, Jacob S. Dusling, Andre J.
5 Francoeur, Todd R. Diggins, Christopher J. Goulding, and Jeffrey M. Pentz on
6 behalf of Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (“Unitil” or the “Company”).

7 **Q. Have you previously submitted testimony in this proceeding?**

8 A. Yes. We submitted direct testimony (individually and jointly) to the New Hampshire
9 Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) on October 31, 2022, in support
10 of the Company’s proposed 4.99 megawatt (“MW”) alternating current (“AC”)¹
11 utility-scale photovoltaic (“PV” or “solar”) generating facility located in Kingston,
12 New Hampshire (the “Kingston Solar Project,” or the “Project”). We also appeared
13 at the Commission’s prehearing conference on January 18, 2023 and the technical
14 session that followed immediately thereafter.

15 **Q. Why is the Company filing Supplemental Testimony?**

16 A. At the January 18, 2023 prehearing conference, the Commission expressed an
17 interest in obtaining additional information concerning potential risks associated
18 with the Kingston Solar Project. The Commission and intervenors also expressed

¹ Solar cells produce direct current (“DC”) electricity, which is then converted to AC electricity by a solar power inverter, which allows the electricity to be delivered to the electric distribution system. The Project assumptions in both the initial filing and this supplemental update for system capacity are based on the proposal identified as the best overall value in each stage of the Company’s two-stage competitive solicitation. As discussed herein, the updated design for the Project is 6.50 MW (DC) / 4.88 MW (AC).

1 an interest in understanding the sensitivity of the Benefit-Cost Analysis to certain
2 assumptions and inputs. That interest is consistent with New Hampshire Revised
3 Statutes Annotated (“RSA”) 374-G:5 which requires, among other things, a
4 discussion of the potential risks associated with a proposed project. Accordingly,
5 this Supplemental Testimony provides additional qualitative and quantitative
6 information concerning potential project risks, and a discussion of the ways in which
7 Unitil is measuring, managing, and mitigating those risks.

8 In addition, Unitil explained in its initial filing that it planned to issue a final
9 Engineering, Procurement and Construction (“EPC”) Request for Proposals
10 (“RFP”) based on responses to its Preliminary EPC RFP.² As discussed in Section
11 II, the Company has received and evaluated responses to its Final EPC RFP and has
12 selected a winning bidder. Accordingly, the Company has revised its Benefit-Cost
13 Analysis with updated cost and performance estimates drawn from the winning
14 Final EPC RFP proposal. Our Supplemental Testimony explains how that
15 information has been reflected in the Company’s updated Benefit-Cost Analysis.

16 Based on updated information and analyses discussed throughout our testimony, the
17 Project is highly likely to create positive net benefits for customers in particular, and
18 the State of New Hampshire in general. That is the case looking solely at direct

² Exh. JSD-1, at Bates pages 000051-000053.

1 benefits; it is even more so considering indirect benefits.³ In keeping with the
2 Company's proposed two-stage process,⁴ the updated information and analyses
3 further support the Company's request for a Commission finding that the Project is
4 in the public interest.

5 **Q. How is the balance of your testimony organized?**

6 A. The remainder of our testimony is organized as follows:

- 7
- 8 • Section II updates the status of the EPC RFP process;

9

 - 10 • Section III discusses the specific updates to the Benefit Cost Analysis, explains
the increased Benefit-Cost ratio in the context of those updates, and provides an
updated Bill Impact analysis;

11

 - 12 • Section IV presents the stress test and a simulation analysis the Company
performed to quantitatively assess Project risk; and

13

 - Section V summarizes and concludes our testimony.

³ See generally Exhs. GPP-1 and GPP-2 (quantifying \$11.2 million (on an NPV basis) of direct, indirect, and induced economic benefits to New Hampshire, \$1.9 million (on an NPV basis) in avoided CO₂ and NO_x benefits, and \$566,963 in aggregate Demand Reduction Induced Prices Effects (DRIPE) benefits to New Hampshire load).

⁴ Exhibit KES-1, at Bates pages 000033-000035.

1 **II. STATUS OF THE EPC RFP PROCESS**

2 **Q. Please summarize the status of Unitil’s EPC RFP process.**

3 A. As discussed in our initial testimony, the Company conducted a Preliminary EPC
4 RFP in Stage 1 of the procurement process,⁵ the results of which are reflected in
5 Exhibit FDGP-1 (Benefit-Cost Analysis) to the initial filing. After the initial filing,
6 Unitil moved to Stage 2 of the procurement process and, on November 30, 2022,
7 issued the Final EPC RFP (Exhibit SP-2). The Company received responses to the
8 Final EPC RFP on January 20, 2023.

9 **Q. Has the Company completed its evaluation of the Final EPC RFP proposals**
10 **and did it select an EPC contractor?**

11 A. Yes, Unitil has completed its evaluation and ReVision Energy’s (“ReVision”)
12 proposal provided the best overall value and scored the highest of all the responses
13 received.⁶ Therefore, Unitil has selected ReVision as its EPC contractor for the
14 Kingston Solar Project, subject to negotiating and executing a final contract.

⁵ Exhibit JSD-1, at Bates pages 000051-000052.

⁶ Each proposal was evaluated and ranked on a quantitative and qualitative basis by criteria that included but was not limited to: Overall company background, history and key characteristics; Experience with similar sized PV projects; Ability to comply/meet the components of the RFP; Ability to execute the work as evidenced by the project execution plan and schedule; Overall pricing proposal; Major equipment warranty periods; Origin of manufacture of major equipment; and Involvement of local businesses and/or local labor.

1 **III. UPDATED BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS AND BILL IMPACTS**

2 **A. Updates to Assumptions and Inputs in the Benefit-Cost Analysis**

3 **Q. Please summarize the updates that have been made to the Benefit-Cost**
 4 **Analysis.**

5 **A.** As summarized in Table 1 below, Unitil has updated and added new assumptions
 6 and variables to the Benefit-Cost Analysis (Exhibit SP-7) in five general categories:
 7 (1) Capital Costs; (2) Expenses; (3) Performance Characteristics; (4) Avoided
 8 Customer Cost Inputs; and (5) Federal Tax Credit.

9 **Table 1: Summary of Updates to Benefit-Cost Analysis**

Category	Update
Capital Costs	Initial Capital Costs Inverter Replacement Cost Capital Replacement Costs
Expenses	Operating & Maintenance (“O&M”) Expense Decommissioning Expense
Performance Characteristics	Project Life (30-Year Project Life to 40-Year Project Life) Nameplate Capacity and Degradation Rate Annual Production (kWh) Capacity at Peak Hour (kW Monthly & Annual)
Avoided Customer Cost Inputs	Energy Rate Futures ISO-New England (“NE”) Open Access Transmission Tariff (“OATT”) Rates Where Applicable
Federal Tax Credit	From Investment Tax Credit to Production Tax Credit

10 The following sections discuss the updates to each of the five general categories.

1 **Capital Costs**

2 **Q. Please summarize the updates that have been made to the capital costs and the**
 3 **purpose for those updated inputs and assumptions.**

4 A. The updates that have been made to capital costs in the Benefit-Cost Analysis are
 5 summarized in Table 2, below.

6 **Table 2: Summary of Updates to Capital Costs**

Update	Purpose	Tab in Benefit-Cost Analysis Model (Exh. SP-7)
Initial Investment Cost	Reflect updated costs provided in ReVision’s RFP response Reflect refinements to System Upgrade and Land Acquisition Costs	“Capital Costs”
Inverter Replacement Cost	Reflect updated costs and timing of replacement provided in ReVision’s RFP response	“Capital Costs”
Capital Replacement Cost Funding	Add capital costs for replacement of equipment based on information provided by ReVision	“Maintenance Capital Costs”

7 **Q. How do the capital investment costs received in the Final EPC RFP compare**
 8 **to those received in the Preliminary RFP?**

9 A. As shown in Table 3 (below), the updated capital costs provided in response to the
 10 Final EPC RFP are generally consistent with the total costs provided in response to
 11 the Preliminary EPC RFP.

1 **Table 3: Comparison of Capital Costs (Preliminary EPC RFP vs. Final EPC RFP)**

Initial Capital Cost Element	Estimated Cost (Preliminary EPC RFP) ⁷	Estimated Cost (Final EPC RFP)
PV Installation (Includes Inverter 1)		
Electric System Upgrades	\$600,000	\$560,000
Land Improvements		
Land Acquisition ⁸	\$857,938	\$820,438
TOTAL		

2 **Q. Has the Project’s Benefit-Cost ratio decreased as a result of the increased costs**
 3 **summarized in Table 3?**

4 **A.** No, it has not. Rather (and as discussed below and in Section III.B), the combination
 5 of higher costs and increased benefits resulted in an increased Benefit-Cost ratio.

6 **Q. Please provide additional detail regarding the updates to the initial capital costs**
 7 **summarized in Table 3.**

8 **A.** First, the total PV installation cost increased by less than \$700,000, about a 5 percent
 9 variance. This relatively modest increase is driven by changes to the design of the
 10 Project, which enhance overall reliability, production, and performance, and all of
 11 which translate into increased customer benefits. Second, the increase in the Inverter
 12 Replacement cost is driven by a higher estimated cost for the equipment, due largely
 13 to the change in the design from the initial filing (i.e., using a string inverter design
 14 instead of central inverters)⁹ and moving the replacement year from Year 15 to Year

⁷ Exh. FDGP-2 (CONFIDENTIAL), “Capital Costs” tab.

⁸ Assumes 50 percent of total Land Acquisition Costs are allocated to the Kingston Solar Project.

⁹ A string inverter design typically requires more inverters because each, individual inverter is converting less power for fewer PV modules. A central inverter design, on the other hand, requires a smaller number of total inverters because each, individual inverter is larger and converting power for a greater number of PV modules. Generally speaking, although the string inverter design being proposed for the Kingston Solar Project is more expensive than the central inverter design utilized in the initial filing, it helps mitigate production risk because if one string fails, the electricity output for the entire array is not lost, only the power being converted from the PV modules associated with that string.

1 20 based on ReVision’s guidance. Third, the Company made a downward
2 adjustment to its estimated cost for system upgrades based on the estimate for the
3 System Impact Study in ReVision’s proposal. Lastly, the Company updated the land
4 acquisition costs to reflect the lower agreed upon purchase price [REDACTED] for
5 the property based on its appraised value.

6 **Q. Please describe the purpose of the Capital Replacement Costs added to the**
7 **Benefit-Cost Analysis and how the Company developed its estimate.**

8 A. Apart from the inverters, Unitol’s initial Benefit-Cost Analysis did not include costs
9 for future capital replacements (“Maintenance Capital Costs”). Upon further
10 analysis, the Company concluded that it is prudent and a more conservative
11 approach to account for the replacement of equipment to avoid lost production
12 outside of the warranty period. Accordingly, the Company updated its Benefit-Cost
13 Analysis to include Maintenance Capital Costs for PV modules and the racking
14 system.

15 As shown on the tab “Maintenance Capital Costs” in Exhibit SP-7, the Company
16 estimates a Maintenance Capital Cost for PV modules and associated equipment of
17 [REDACTED] beginning in Year 26, which escalates to an annual amount of [REDACTED] in
18 Year 40. For racking, the Company estimates a Maintenance Capital Cost of
19 [REDACTED] beginning in Year 21, which escalates to an annual amount of [REDACTED] in
20 Year 40.¹⁰

¹⁰ As shown on the tab “Maintenance Capital Costs” in Exhibit SP-7, the Company applied a 2 percent escalation rate to the estimated maintenance capital costs.

1 The Company also added Schedule 11, which was not included in the initial Benefit-
2 Cost Analysis, to Exhibit SP-7. Schedule 11 calculates tax depreciation for the
3 Maintenance Capital which was necessary due to the large number of cost vintage
4 years.

5 The Company developed its estimate for Maintenance Capital Costs based on input
6 from ReVision (*see* Exhibit SP-5, response to Question 3). That data indicates that
7 the failure rate of racking, modules, and inverters (and other components) is
8 extremely low, with a fraction of 1 percent of components requiring service in a
9 given year. Taking that information into account, the Company assumed
10 replacement costs of 0.5 percent of the original cost for modules and racking for the
11 first ten years after the applicable warranty periods (*i.e.*, years 26 through 35 for
12 modules and years 21 through 30 for racking). Thereafter, the Company assumed
13 replacement costs of 1 percent of the original cost for years 36 to 40 for modules
14 and years 31 to 40 for racking after the warranty period. In total, the Company has
15 included Maintenance Capital Costs of approximately \$2 million over the life of the
16 project.

17 **Expenses**

18 **Q. Please summarize the updates that have been made to expenses and the basis**
19 **of those updates.**

20 A. The updates that have been made to expenses in the Benefit-Cost Analysis are
21 summarized in Table 4, below.

1

Table 4: Summary of Updates to Expenses

Update	Purpose	Tab in Benefit-Cost Analysis Model (Exh. SP-7)
Maintenance O&M Expense	Reflect ReVision’s RFP Response	“O&M Expense”
Decommissioning Expense	Add decommissioning expense based on estimate provided by ReVision in RFP process	“Decommissioning Expense”

2 **Q. What is driving the update to the estimate for Maintenance Expense?**

3 A. As shown in Exhibit FDGP-2, Schedule 3 of Unitil’s initial filing, based on a
 4 response to the Preliminary EPC RFP, the Company estimated an O&M cost of
 5 ██████ in Year 1. The Company adjusted that estimate for inflation over the
 6 balance of the Project’s expected 30-year design life. The Company revised its
 7 O&M estimate based on information provided by ReVision in response to the Final
 8 EPC RFP. The revised estimate is ██████ starting in Year 1 for vegetation
 9 management with additional maintenance costs of ██████ beginning in Year 6 to
 10 continue the inspection, monitoring, and maintenance contract.¹¹ As shown on the
 11 tab “Capital Costs” in Exhibit SP-7, the first five years of O&M are included in the
 12 initial capital costs.

13 **Q. Please now explain the purpose of the Decommissioning Expense and how the**
 14 **Company developed its estimate.**

15 A. The Company did not include an estimate for decommissioning expense in its initial
 16 Benefit-Cost Analysis because the guidance it received in the Preliminary EPC RFP

¹¹ The Company assumed O&M expense will escalate at 2 percent annually based on ReVision’s proposal (see Exh. SP-4).

1 was that salvage value would exceed decommissioning costs. However, upon
2 further consideration, the Company determined that it would be prudent and a more
3 conservative approach to include decommissioning expenses in its model. Unutil
4 therefore requested that ReVision provide an estimate of decommissioning costs as
5 part of the Final EPC RFP bid process (*see* Exh. SP-5).

6 As explained by ReVision, given the low volume of solar arrays that have reached
7 or are approaching the end of their useful life, and the steady advances being made
8 in solar panel recycling, it is not possible to provide a firm estimate of
9 decommissioning costs at this time. Nonetheless, based on its analysis of numerous
10 decommissioning agreements in the public domain for megawatt-scale solar arrays
11 in Massachusetts and Vermont that were approved by municipal Planning Boards,
12 ReVision recommended a conservative estimate of [REDACTED] for decommissioning
13 the Project. The Company has incorporated ReVision's estimate of [REDACTED] (current
14 dollars) into the Benefit-Cost Analysis and escalated this value by 2 percent over
15 the life of the Project to estimate the future decommissioning cost of [REDACTED]. The
16 analysis includes [REDACTED] as an annual decommissioning expense (spread evenly over
17 the Project's estimated life) as a component of the revenue requirement.

1 **Performance Characteristics**

2 **Q. Please summarize the updates that have been made to the Project’s**
3 **performance characteristics and the purpose for those updated inputs and**
4 **assumptions.**

5 A. The updates to the Project’s performance characteristics in the Benefit-Cost
6 Analysis are based on ReVision’s response to the Final EPC RFP and are
7 summarized in Table 5 below.

8 **Table 5: Summary of Updates to Performance Characteristics**

Update	Purpose	Tab in Benefit-Cost Analysis Model (Exh. SP-7)
30-Year Project Life to 40-Year Project Life	Reflect ReVision’s RFP Response	<i>All</i>
Capacity Nameplate and Degradation Rate	Reflect ReVision’s RFP Response	“Direct Customer Benefits”
Annual Production (kWh)	Reflect ReVision’s RFP Response	“Direct Customer Benefits”
Capacity at Peak Hour (kW Monthly & Annual)	Reflect ReVision’s RFP Response	“Direct Customer Benefits”

9 **Q. Please provide additional detail regarding the updates to the inputs for the**
10 **Project life, system capacity, and degradation rate.**

11 A. The assumptions in both the initial filing (based on the Preliminary EPC RFP) and
12 this update (based on the Final EPC RFP) for Project life, system capacity, and
13 degradation rates are based on the proposal identified as the best overall value in the
14 Preliminary EPC RFP and the Final EPC RFP, respectively. The components,
15 design, and the engineering inputs in the updated Benefit-Cost Analysis (Exh. SP-
16 7) reflect ReVision’s proposal.

1

Table 6: Updates to Design Characteristics

Input	Input (Initial Filing)	Input (Supplemental Filing)
Expected Life of Project	30 years	40 years
System Capacity	6.15 MW (DC) / 4.99 MW (AC)	6.50 MW (DC) / 4.88 MW (AC)
Degradation Rate	0.5% reduction from Year 1 to Year 2 (0.5%) annually	2% reduction from Year 1 to Year 2 (0.5%) annually
Capacity Factor	21.96%	22.78%
Capacity at Peak Hour (kW – Annual)	37.1%	48.8%
Capacity at Peak Hour (kW – Monthly)	12.0%	16.8%

2

The increase in capacity factor and estimated production at the peak hours is due to several factors. First, the DC capacity of the system is greater than originally proposed for a smaller AC capacity. This increases output during non-peak production hours, allowing the system to produce more AC output throughout the production hours. Second, the proposed tracking system in the ReVision design has a 120 (+/-60) degree range of motion opposed to a 110 degree range of motion. This provides additional output in the early morning and later evening hours.

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The Year 1 degradation rate changed because the PV modules (and the attendant performance characteristics and specifications) assumed in the Company's initial filing is different than those provided in ReVision's proposed design.

10

11

1 **Q. Please provide additional detail regarding the updates to annual Production**
 2 **(kWh) and capacity at the Peak Hour (kW Monthly and Annual).**

3 A. The estimated capacity factor and the associated production at the peak hours is
 4 drawn from ReVision’s analysis using the HelioScope tool that considers the
 5 characteristics of the specific equipment being proposed (*i.e.*, inverters, solar panels,
 6 tracking system, etc.), local historical weather conditions (Concord, New
 7 Hampshire), and specific sources of system losses (*i.e.*, inverters, wiring,
 8 temperature, soiling, shading, etc.) (*see* Exhs. SP-3; SP-6).

9 **Avoided Customer Cost Inputs**

10 **Q. Please summarize the updates to avoided customer cost inputs, and the purpose**
 11 **for those updates.**

12 A. Updates to the avoided customer cost inputs are summarized in Table 7 below.

13 **Table 7: Summary of Updates to Customer Cost Inputs**

Update	Purpose	Tab in Benefit-Cost Analysis Model (Exh. SP-7)
ISO NE OATT Rates Where Applicable	Use most up-to-date ISO-NE OATT rates where applicable	“Direct Customer Benefits”
Updated Energy Futures	Using more recent ISO-NE Futures	“Direct Customer Benefits”

14 **Q. What is driving the updates to the avoided customer cost inputs summarized**
 15 **in the table above?**

16 A. The Company updated the analysis to ensure the direct customer benefits are
 17 calculated using the most up-to-date ISO-NE OATT rates as shown in Table 8
 18 below.

1

Table 8: Updates to Regional Transmission Rates

Rate	Initial Benefit-Cost Analysis	Supplemental Benefit-Cost Analysis
ISO-NE Section 4A, Schedule 1 Rate (\$ kW-Mo.)	\$0.1918	\$0.2048
ISO-NE Section 4A, Schedule 5 Rate (\$ kW-Mo.)	\$0.0074	\$0.0070
ISO-NE Section 2, Schedule 1 Rate (\$ kW-Mo.)	\$0.1459	\$0.1459
ISO-NE Section 2, Schedule 9 Rate (\$ kW-Mo.)	\$11.7453	\$11.7453

2 Similarly, the Company updated its energy rates assumption with a more recent,
 3 lower (February 2023) futures forecast.

4 **Federal Tax Credits**

5 **Q. Please provide an overview the federal tax credits available pursuant to the**
 6 **Inflation Reduction Act (“IRA”).**

7 A. The IRA extended federal tax credits for solar electricity production facilities
 8 beginning construction before January 1, 2025. There are two categories of tax
 9 credits available under the IRA. The Production Tax Credit (“PTC”) provides a
 10 corporate tax credit for each kilowatt-hour of electricity produced by a qualifying
 11 facility for the first 10 years of operations. There is also an Investment Tax Credit
 12 (“ITC”), which provides a corporate tax credit of up to 30 percent of the installed
 13 cost of qualified facilities.¹² Stated simply, the PTC is earned over time based on
 14 production whereas the ITC is earned when the facility goes into service. Solar
 15 projects have a choice between the ITC and the PTC; developers cannot use both.

¹² Projects that satisfy a domestic content requirement are entitled to a 10 percent bonus credit. To qualify for this bonus, the taxpayer must certify that the steel or iron used in the project is produced in the United States and a “required percentage” of the total costs of manufactured products (including components) of the facility are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States.

1 **Q. What is the rationale for the normalization rules and what are the**
2 **consequences of violating them?**

3 A. Generally speaking, normalization is a system of accounting used by regulated
4 public utilities to reconcile the tax treatment of ITCs in accordance with the Internal
5 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The normalization rules dictate that the benefit
6 of the federal tax credits must be passed back to customers ratably over the life of
7 the investment that produces the credits.

8 There are two principles underpinning the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”)
9 Normalization Rules. First, Congress wanted to preserve the utility’s incentive to
10 invest, and ensure that the ITC was not purely subsidizing the services provided by
11 the utility. IRS Normalization Rules ensure both shareholders and customers benefit
12 from the ITC.

13 The second principle is to protect the government’s tax revenue. If the utility
14 immediately lowered rates for the ITC without normalization, the federal
15 government would experience lower income tax revenue. In such a case, the federal
16 government would be losing tax revenue both for the ITC and lower income due to
17 lower distribution rates.¹³

18 Violating the normalization rules results in the loss of income tax deductions such
19 as accelerated depreciation or the recapture of tax credits, eliminating tax benefits
20 available including accumulated depreciation.

¹³ See 2017-38 I.R.B. (Sept. 18, 2017), available at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb17-38.pdf>.

1 **Q. Please describe the Company's modified approach to the federal tax credits.**

2 A. Upon further analysis, the Company revised its approach to assume the PTC rather
3 than the ITC because, as explained below, the PTC is expected to improve the
4 overall economics of the Project from the perspective of customers.¹⁴

5 **Q. Why would applying the PTC, as compared to the ITC, potentially enhance the**
6 **Project's net benefits?**

7 A. Unlike the ITC, the PTC is not subject to IRS Normalization rules. This means the
8 PTC can be used to offset the revenue requirement, including a tax gross up, as it is
9 earned. This has the effect of front-loading the benefits of the tax credits relative to
10 the ITC which, under normalization rules, is flowed back to customers evenly over
11 the Project's life. In short, under the PTC approach customers are able to realize a
12 greater time value of money benefit than compared to the ITC approach.

13 **Q. Will the Company continue to consider options to maximize the value of federal**
14 **tax credits?**

15 A. Yes. As discussed in our initial testimony,¹⁵ the IRA allows companies to transfer
16 the ITC to other taxpayers in exchange for cash. However, final guidance from the
17 IRS regarding these new ITC provisions has not yet been published. In the
18 meantime, Unitil will continue to investigate options to ensure customers receive
19 the maximum economic value from the federal tax credit.

¹⁴ In both the initial and supplemental Benefit-Cost Analyses, the federal tax credit is included in the Net Present Value ("NPV") by flowing back the credit and associated benefits through the annual revenue requirement, thereby decreasing the revenue requirement.

¹⁵ Exhibit FDGP-1, at Bates pages 000189-000190.

1 **B. Results of Updated Benefit-Cost Analysis**

2 **Q. Does the Company believe the assumptions and inputs used in the Benefit-Cost**
 3 **Analysis are reasonable and conservative?**

4 A. Yes. The base inputs and assumptions in the Benefit-Cost Analysis represent the
 5 Company’s best estimates and the process the Company employed to develop those
 6 estimates is reasonable and conservative. Specific examples of the Company’s
 7 conservative approach include:

8 • The inputs and assumptions in the Benefit-Cost analysis are thoroughly
 9 documented and based on objective, third-party data and sources:

10 ○ The capital cost, O&M expense, decommissioning cost, Maintenance
 11 Capital Costs, performance characteristics, and energy production
 12 estimates are based on ReVision’s proposal, which was developed and
 13 submitted through a competitive solicitation process.

14 ○ Avoided transmission costs are based on ISO-NE Tariff rates.

15 ○ The Company used the “ISO New England MASS HUB 5 MW 5 LMP
 16 Futures” to extrapolate electricity prices for the first four years of the
 17 Project and escalated these prices beginning in Year 5 by the long-run
 18 annual growth rate included in Energy Information Administration’s
 19 2022 Annual Energy Outlook for end-use prices.

20 • The Renewable Energy Certificates (“REC”) price assumption is based on the
 21 New Hampshire Class II REC for the 2023 term. The [REDACTED] REC price is a
 22 conservative estimate given the current Alternative Compliance Payment rate of

1 \$61.18 for compliance year 2023. Increases in future market demand associated
2 with increasing electrification may result in higher demand for Class II RECs as
3 retail electric sales increase. In addition, the estimated REC pricing is valued in
4 2023 dollars and not escalated by an inflation factor, such as the Consumer Price
5 Index. To the extent RECs are susceptible to inflation, the potential REC value
6 may be significantly higher in future years.

- 7 • There is a 10 percent bonus tax credit if a Project meets the domestic content
8 requirements (*i.e.*, all steel or iron used must be produced in the United States
9 and a “required percentage” of the total costs of manufactured products need to
10 be mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States). Although the Project
11 may be eligible for this bonus tax credit, the Company has not included it in the
12 Benefit-Cost Analysis.
- 13 • When calculating estimated peak output, the Company looked to historical peak
14 hours from 2012 to 2021 and did not include years prior to 2012 as this would
15 have inflated the calculation due to the ISO-NE peak shifting later in the day
16 after 2011 (*see* Exh. SP-6).
- 17 • The Company has not included indirect benefits in the Benefit-Cost Analysis.
18 When indirect benefits are considered, the Project’s already positive net benefits
19 are meaningfully enhanced supporting a finding that the Project is in the public
20 interest.

21 On balance, the Company believes its Benefit-Cost Analysis is based on reasonable
22 and conservative assumptions.

1 **Q. Please summarize the results of the Company's updated Benefit-Cost Analysis.**

2 A. As shown in Exhibit SP-7, the present value of the Project's benefits is
3 approximately \$19.3 million and the present value of the costs is approximately
4 \$16.7 million. This produces a net present value benefit of \$2.5 million with a
5 Benefit-Cost ratio of 1.15, a meaningful increase relative to the NPV of \$1.4 million
6 and Benefit-Cost ratio of 1.09 presented in the Company's initial filing. To be clear,
7 the updated Benefit-Cost ratio (*i.e.*, 1.15) does not include either indirect benefits,
8 or the option value of potential energy storage.

9 Table 9 below summarizes the respective contributions to the Benefit-Cost ratio and
10 NPV generated by the updates to key assumptions and inputs in the Benefit-Cost
11 Analysis.

1 **Table 9: Respective Contributions to Benefit-Cost Ratio and NPV**

	NPV ¹⁶	BCR ¹⁷	Description
	\$1.4	1.09	
Federal Tax Credit	\$1.1	0.08	Switch from ITC to PTC
Peak Output	\$1.0	0.06	Higher Peak Output based on RFP response
Longer Facility Life	\$0.8	0.05	Expected life of 40 years relative to 30 years in initial filing
Annual Production	\$0.7	0.04	Higher capacity factor based on RFP response
Higher Year Two Degradation	(\$0.3)	-0.02	2% degradation in year 2 relative to 0.5% in initial filing
Higher Capital Costs	(\$0.9)	-0.06	Higher initial capital costs and included Maintenance Capital Costs
Lower Energy Futures Prices	(\$1.0)	-0.06	Updated Energy Futures since initial filing
Other	(\$0.3)	-0.03	Higher O&M, added Decommissioning Expense, and updated regional transmission rates
Updated Benefit-Cost Analysis	\$2.5	1.15	

2 **C. Bill Impacts**

3 **Q. Has the Company provided an updated bill impact analysis?**

4 A. Yes, the Company has calculated and provided updated bill impacts by rate class in
 5 Exhibit SP-8.

6 As shown on page 1, line 7, column c of Exhibit SP-8, an average Residential
 7 customer would see an increase in their monthly bill of \$0.05 per month in Year 1
 8 after accounting for the cost and the direct benefits of the project. In Year 40, an
 9 average Residential customer would see a decrease in their monthly bill of \$0.53 per

¹⁶ Dollars in millions.

¹⁷ The Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) is a function of the NPV. To calculate the incremental effect on the BCR, the NPV of each factor is added to the Benefits or removed from the Costs provided in the initial Benefit Cost Analysis.

1 month. Overall, the discounted benefit of the project is estimated to accrue to
2 customers in Year 7.

3 **Q. Do the Project’s offsetting benefits (transmission, energy, and RECs) flow to**
4 **all customers or only to default service customers?**

5 A. The offsetting benefits in the bill impact analysis flow to all customers. As explained
6 in our initial testimony, the Kingston Solar Project will be operated as a “load
7 reducer,” meaning the energy produced by the facility will offset energy that
8 otherwise would be received by Unitil from the transmission system.¹⁸ In other
9 words, the amount of wholesale power imported from the bulk transmission system
10 (tie points) to meet customer demand will be reduced by the amount of electricity
11 produced by the Kingston Project. This is a reduction in total wholesale system load,
12 and not directly attributable to any specific supplier on the system, such as default
13 service or competitive supply. Further, any production from the Project that is
14 coincident with the monthly peak hour will reduce transmission costs. The cost of
15 transmission is recovered via the External Delivery Charge (“EDC”), which is
16 assessed as a per kWh charge billed to all customers.

17 The Project will generate RECs that will be retained to either meet Unitil’s Default
18 Service Renewable Portfolio Standard (“RPS”) obligations or sold into the market
19 and credited back to customers. If the RECs are used the satisfy Unitil’s RPS
20 obligations, a transfer price will be established and charged to default service

¹⁸ Exhs. KES-1, at Bates pages 000023-000024; JSD-1, at Bates pages 000058-000059; FDGP-1, at
Bates pages 000191-000196.

1 customers and a credit for the transfer price will be included in the EDC. If the RECs
2 are sold into the market, the REC revenue would be included in the EDC. In both
3 cases, the benefit of the RECs generated by the Project go to all customers.

4 **IV. QUALITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT**

5 **Q. Did the Company identify and discuss potential project risks in its initial filing?**

6 A. Yes. The Company explained in its initial filing that it has not identified any material
7 risks to the Project and described the steps it is taking to manage and mitigate
8 operating and financial risk.¹⁹

9 For example, the Company explained that utility-scale solar projects are well
10 established and the market is mature, which lowers technology risk.²⁰ This risk is
11 further lowered by fact that the Company's affiliate, Fitchburg Gas and Electric
12 Light Company has already developed a utility-scale solar project in
13 Massachusetts.²¹ In other words, Unitil has first-hand experience with the
14 development, operation, and maintenance of utility-scale solar technology.

15 Unitil also explained in its initial testimony that supply chain and cost escalation
16 risks could affect the Benefit-Cost Analysis.²² The Company further explained that
17 it is mitigating this risk by working through a multi-stage, competitive bidding

¹⁹ Exh. KES-1, at Bates page 000020.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.* at 000011-000012.

²² *Id.*

1 process to gather the most up to date pricing and schedule information for the
2 Project.²³ To provide the Commission and intervenors with the best estimate of
3 expected Project costs, the Company has updated its Benefit-Cost Analysis as
4 presented in Section III above.

5 A further example is the risk mitigation measures built into in the Purchase and Sale
6 (“P&S”) agreement that the Company discussed in its initial testimony. Specifically,
7 these provisions make the P&S agreement contingent upon site due diligence, title
8 examination, and the appraised value.²⁴

9 Although the Company identified and assessed Project risks in its initial filing, we
10 appreciate the interest in this subject expressed by the Commission and intervenors
11 at the January 18, 2023 prehearing conference. The following portions of our
12 testimony therefore expands on that discussion by identifying broad categories of
13 risk, discussing the specific risks within each category, and describing the actions
14 the Company is taking to manage and mitigate those risks.

15 **Q. Please identify the categories of potential risks to the Project.**

16 A. Unitil has identified five general categories of potential Project risk: Site Control
17 Risk; Construction and Cost Risk; Permitting Risk; Financing and Financial Risk;
18 and Performance and Operational Risk.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ Exh. JSD-1, at Bates pages 00045-00046.

1 **Site Control Risk**

2 **Q. What are the risks associated with site control?**

3 A. A significant risk in the development of any renewable project is securing the rights
4 to use property to construct and operate the facility for its useful life. Private
5 developers typically establish an interest in land for their projects through an
6 easement or a lease (or some combination thereof) and those agreements are
7 commonly pledged as collateral to project lenders. Although leases and easements
8 are a reasonable approach, they can present challenges as developers must negotiate
9 with the landowner (and in some cases multiple landowners) to secure the full scope
10 of rights necessary to develop their projects. An alternative to easements and leases
11 is to buy the property, and acquire fee title, which entitles the purchaser to exclusive
12 possession of the land and an unconditional and unlimited interest of perpetual
13 duration. Unitil has taken this lower-risk approach to site control for the Kingston
14 Solar Project.²⁵

15 **Q. What additional steps is the Company taking to mitigate site control risk?**

16 A. As noted above, and discussed in Unitil's initial filing,²⁶ the P&S agreement has a
17 number a built-in mitigation measures. Specifically, the P&S is contingent upon a
18 title examination and the completion of site due diligence, including the receipt of
19 all necessary construction permits. In addition, to ensure the property is acquired at

²⁵ Unitil Realty Corporation, an unregulated subsidiary of Unitil Corporation, entered into the P&S agreement on August 25, 2022 for the Kingston Solar Project site. The P&S Agreement was attached to the initial filing as Exhibit JSD-5 (CONFIDENTIAL). Unitil Realty Corporation will transfer the parcel ultimately used for the Kingston Solar Project to UES and retain the remaining parcel for future development.

²⁶ Exh. JSD-1, at Bates pages 000044-000045.

1 a fair price, the P&S is contingent upon the property appraising at or above the
2 purchase price. This appraisal clause is the reason the purchase price for the property
3 has been reduced, as noted earlier.

4 **Construction and Cost Risk**

5 **Q. What are the potential construction and cost risks for the project?**

6 A. A potential risk for a renewable energy project, or any construction project for that
7 matter, is unforeseen cost escalations that may be driven by estimates that later prove
8 to be inaccurate, inflation, market demand, shipping and freight costs, supply chain
9 disruptions, or other unforeseeable circumstances.

10 **Q. What is the Company doing to mitigate this risk?**

11 A. Certain risks are naturally mitigated by the Project's technology. The upfront costs
12 for PV arrays have declined dramatically over the past several years.²⁷ Also, over
13 the long term, the Kingston Solar Project will not have any fuel costs, which means
14 that it is insulated from the risk of rising and volatile fossil fuel costs.

15 Regarding the potential for cost escalation during construction, the Company is
16 managing that risk through several measures. First, the Company has conducted a
17 multi-stage, competitive RFP process to ensure its Project cost estimates are
18 reasonably accurate and robust. As part of that process, the Company has thoroughly

²⁷ New Hampshire Department of Energy, New Hampshire 10-Year Energy Strategy at 47, 51 (July 2022) (stating the cost of new utility-scale solar has fallen by 90 percent in the last 12 years).

1 vetted the proposed EPC contractor teams, their technical capabilities, and their
2 prior experience developing similar projects.

3 ReVision has local project experience, which includes municipal arrays awarded via
4 competitive bid by the Town of Kingston and the surrounding towns of Exeter and
5 Brentwood (where ReVision's office is based). ReVision is currently working with
6 Town of Kingston to develop a 6.2 MW municipal array on the Kingston capped
7 landfill. In addition to the 6.2 MW Kingston landfill project, ReVision is currently
8 working with a local educational institution on a 4.7 MW solar farm and is ready to
9 commence construction (pending utility study) on New Hampshire's largest solar
10 array to date, a 4.3 MW solar farm at the Rockingham County Complex in
11 Brentwood, New Hampshire.

12 Second, the Company is employing a turnkey, EPC project delivery model, and will
13 remain actively involved throughout the design, engineering, procurement and
14 construction phases of the Project. Notably, ReVision is planning to use Ayer
15 Electric (IBEW), a local firm based in Barrington, New Hampshire, as its primary
16 electrical subcontractor for the Kingston Solar Project.

17 Third, ReVision places bulk orders for tens of megawatts of solar modules through
18 the Amicus purchasing group approximately two times per year and will include the
19 Kingston Solar Project in a bulk order after contract signing. By aggregating its
20 buying power with other member companies nationwide, ReVision negotiates

1 directly with equipment manufacturers and is able to attain better pricing on
2 equipment.

3 Fourth, Unutil plans to negotiate and enter into an EPC contract with ReVision that
4 will appropriately allocate construction and cost risk between the parties.

5 **Q. Do project risks generally increase with time?**

6 A. Yes, time is a key concern because pricing estimates are less reliable as time passes.
7 However, the Company does not view time as a significant risk factor because the
8 Commission has approved a six-month procedural schedule for this docket
9 consistent with RSA 374-G:5, V.

10 **Financial and Financing Risk**

11 **Q. What are the potential financial risks associated with the Project?**

12 A. One of the risks commonly associated with renewable energy projects is insufficient
13 access to low-cost capital. For this reason, many privately developed renewable
14 energy projects are highly leveraged, which translates into default risk, and the tax
15 benefits often flow, at a discount, to a third-party tax equity investor. In this case,
16 the Company is proposing to finance the Project at its most recently approved cost
17 of capital and to offset the revenue requirement with federal tax credits.

18 **Q. Are there any other financial risks that are absent because the Project is being**
19 **developed by a public utility instead of a private developer?**

20 A. Yes. In the context of many privately developed projects, project cash flows are
21 derived from a long-term offtake or power purchase agreement (“PPA”), which

1 essentially determine the Project's economics. A PPA introduces the risk of non-
2 payment (and the associated litigation risk), which is absent from the Company's
3 proposed Project. As explained in our initial testimony (and as noted earlier), the
4 Kingston Solar Project is a load reducer and there are no customer contracts to be
5 executed. This is a favorable, lower-risk structure, because the Company and its
6 customers do not need to assume the duties and obligations of a contract in order to
7 receive the benefits produced by the Kingston Solar Project.

8 Another revenue stream typically associated with solar projects are state incentives,
9 which commonly take the form of net metering credits. This revenue stream is
10 subject to the risk of a future change in state policy, discontinuing these incentive
11 programs. The Kingston Solar Project is not reliant upon any state subsidies and
12 therefore this risk does not apply to this Project.

13 **Permitting Risk**

14 **Q. What are the permitting risks associated with the Project?**

15 A. Permitting risk can be viewed along a spectrum. On one end are permitting delays
16 and at the extreme opposite end is the denial of necessary approvals. As discussed
17 in our initial filing, several local, state, and federal permits are required for the
18 Kingston Solar Project.²⁸

²⁸ Exh. JSD-1, at Bates pages 000047-000048.

1 **Q. How is Unutil managing permitting risk for the Kingston Solar Project?**

2 A. As explained in our initial filing, Unutil has hired TF Moran, Inc. (“TFM”), a New-
3 Hampshire based Land Planning firm to perform Site Due Diligence and obtain all
4 the necessary permits to construct the Project. TFM has extensive experience
5 completing site assessment and permit application projects in New Hampshire. In
6 addition, ReVision has local, state, and federal permitting experience and could
7 assist TFM, as necessary.

8 Lastly, the Company is insulating the Project from permitting risk because it will
9 not authorize the procurement of equipment and materials until we have strong
10 confidence that all necessary local, state, and federal permits will be obtained.

11 **Performance/Operational Risk**

12 **Q. What are the potential risks associated with performance and operation of the**
13 **Project?**

14 A. Energy production is a key driver of Project benefits. Accordingly, once the Project
15 achieves commercial operation, equipment failures and diminished capacity factors
16 are potential risks.

17 **Q. How is the Company mitigating performance and operational risks?**

18 A. The Company plans to manage this risk by several means.

19 First, the Company plans to enter into an O&M agreement with ReVision to ensure
20 the system generates at its maximum capacity over the projected design life. As part
21 of the final system design, ReVision will develop a detailed, site-specific O&M

1 plan. The ReVision O&M plan will include daily monitoring of system performance
2 so it can quickly mobilize in-house service personnel either remotely or onsite to
3 address issues that may arise, in accordance with guaranteed response times. The
4 O&M Plan will also include 80-point annual electrical and mechanical inspections
5 and associated preventive maintenance, accompanied by a detailed inspection and
6 production report.

7 Second, the Project is designed with proven, high-quality components with long-
8 term and robust warranties from manufacturers to ensure the performance and
9 reliability of the equipment. The warranty periods and expected lifespan of major
10 system components provided by ReVision in response to the Final EPC RFP are
11 summarized in Table 10 below.

12 **Table 10: Warranty Periods and Commercial Lifespan**

Major Component	Warranty Period (Years)	Commercial Lifespan (Years)
Qcells QPEAK DUO XL 580W Bifacial Solar Modules	25	40
Solectria XGI 1500/125 kW Solar Inverters	20	20
TerraSmart TerraTrack Single-Axis Tracking System	20	40

13 The 25-year linear performance warranty for the solar modules ensures at least 98
14 percent of nominal power during the first year and maximum 0.5 percent
15 degradation per year thereafter, resulting in at least 86 percent of nominal power
16 output in Year 25. Qcells is a leading Tier 1 solar panel manufacturer based in the

1 United States (Georgia) and over the past decade, ReVision has installed large
2 volumes of Qcells modules across northern New England.

3 Third, the energy production estimates in the Company's Benefit-Cost Analysis are
4 based on data provided by ReVision, which is derived from the industry-standard
5 HelioScope Production software using specific equipment and local weather
6 characteristics. ReVision's production estimates consider the specific pitch, azimuth
7 and other design features of the Project, as well as external factors such as irradiance,
8 soiling conditions, and temperature derived from the nearest TMY2²⁹ federal
9 weather dataset (Concord Municipal Airport).

10 Fourth, as discussed above, Unitol has updated its Benefit-Cost Analysis to include
11 Maintenance Capital Costs for PV modules and the racking system. Although the
12 Company expects the capital equipment to operate well beyond the warranty
13 periods, these costs would support the replacement of equipment if necessary to
14 avoid lost production.

15 Fifth, the Company plans to maintain a limited stock of spare material, including
16 PV modules, a step-up transformer and an inverter that will be utilized when needed
17 to limit downtime.

²⁹ Typical meteorological year ("TMY") is a collection of selected weather data for a specific location. The first TMY collection was based on 229 locations in the United States and was collected between 1948 and 1980. The second edition of the TMY is called "TMY2".

1 Sixth, the Project will be a string inverter design as opposed to a central inverter
2 design. Specifically, the Project is designed to utilize approximately 39 125kW
3 inverters instead of a few larger central inverters. This design should reduce
4 replacement costs in the event of an inverter failure, and minimize the reduction in
5 production impacts when inverters and/or PV modules need to be removed for
6 maintenance.

7 **Conclusion**

8 **Q. Please summarize the Company's qualitative discussion of potential Project**
9 **risks.**

10 A. The Company is actively managing the Project to keep the level of spending low in
11 the early development stages when development risk is relatively high. Considering
12 the additional information received in the final EPC RFP process, the Company's
13 view with respect to Project risk remains unchanged from its initial filing. Although
14 Unitil has identified potential risks, it views their effect on the Project's net benefits
15 to be limited, and, as discussed above, is taking prudent steps to measure, manage,
16 and mitigate them.

17 **V. QUANTITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT**

18 **Q. Has the Company performed a quantitative assessment of potential Project**
19 **risk?**

20 A. Yes. The Company has conducted a stress test and a simulation analysis to
21 quantitatively assess Project risk.

1 **Stress Test Analysis**

2 **Q. Please briefly describe the purpose of the stress test analysis.**

3 A. A stress test is useful for understanding the sensitivity of a result to changes in
 4 certain variables. In this case, the Company performed a stress test analysis to find
 5 the level to which key inputs in the Benefit-Cost Analysis must change such that the
 6 Project’s net benefits are zero (*i.e.*, the breakeven point).

7 **Q. Please identify the assumptions and inputs upon which the Company**
 8 **performed the stress test analysis.**

9 A. Unitil performed stress tests on the most critical assumptions and inputs summarized
 10 in Table 11 below. For each assumption, we found the extent to which it must
 11 change (holding the others constant) to create a net benefit of zero.

12 **Table 11: Summary of Stress Test Results**

Variable	Base Assumption	Stress Test Value
Annual Capacity Factor	22.78%	19.66%
Initial Depreciable Capital Cost	\$13.9 Million	\$15.8 Million
REC Price	██████	\$16.32
Direct Benefits Escalation Rate	2.00%	-0.09%
ISO-NE Futures (Average Year 1-4)	\$0.0784	\$0.0571

13 **Q. What conclusions do you draw from the stress test analysis?**

14 A. Simply put, the variables would have to change to levels the Company considers to
 15 be low-probability before the Kingston Solar Project no longer produces positive
 16 net benefits.

17 The Company further notes that it has limited the stress test analysis to only direct
 18 benefits. When indirect benefits are considered, those benefits serve to further

1 increase the Project's already positive benefits and reinforce a finding that the
2 Project is in the public interest.³⁰

3 *Simulation Analysis*

4 **Q. Please briefly summarize the benefits associated with simulation analyses.**

5 A. As noted above, stress tests measure the extent to which a given variable must
6 change for the Project to no longer provide positive net benefits. In effect, it changes
7 one variable while holding all others constant. Although that approach is valuable
8 in assessing the sensitivity of analytical results to a given variable, it does not reflect
9 the extent to which variables may, or may not, move together. Simulation analyses
10 (sometimes referred to as "Monte Carlo" analyses) provide the ability to consider
11 such correlations across variables, and to define the statistical properties (for
12 example, the shape and dispersion of potential outcomes) for individual variables.
13 Moreover, by combining those attributes (correlations across variables and the
14 statistical properties of individual variables) we are able to simulate thousands of
15 scenarios, and develop probabilities of outcomes (in this case, the probability that
16 the BCR is greater than 1.00, or the NPV is greater than zero).

³⁰ In DE 09-137, the Commission held that it is appropriate to include indirect benefits in the Benefit-Cost Analysis after first considering direct and readily quantifiable benefits. In addition, the Commission held that in situations where projects may be marginally uneconomic based on direct benefits alone, it will allow reasonable estimates of indirect benefits to be considered and, if appropriate, to support a public interest finding.

1 **Q. Did the Company perform a simulation analysis?**

2 A. Yes. The Company performed a simulation analysis using @Risk, an add-in tool for
3 Microsoft Excel, to analyze the economic risk of the Project using Monte Carlo
4 simulations. The Company included 9 key assumptions in the simulations, which
5 unlike in the stress test discussed above, can be changed independent of one another.
6 The simulation was conducted with 100,000 unique iterations of the key inputs
7 subject to the established parameters.

8 **Q. Please identify the key inputs included in the simulation analysis.**

9 A. The inputs included in the simulation analysis include: the annual capacity factor,
10 the monthly and annual peak capacity, change in the modeled depreciable capital
11 costs, REC prices, Energy Rates in the initial years which are based on Energy
12 Futures, the escalation rate used for the calculation of Direct Customer Benefits, and
13 the escalation rate used for all other assumptions. Lastly, the Company included the
14 probability that the Project will meet the requirements for the ten percent Domestic
15 Content bonus for the PTC rate.

16 **Q. Please explain how the simulation was arranged.**

17 A. Each of the above variables was assigned a distribution with various parameters.
18 The distributions used were triangular, normal distribution, and binomial
19 distribution. The triangular distributions were provided parameters for the
20 minimum, maximum, and most likely value. The triangular distribution is useful
21 when there is limited data available and there is relatively more subjectivity. For
22 example, for the Depreciable Capital Cost input the Company used its most likely

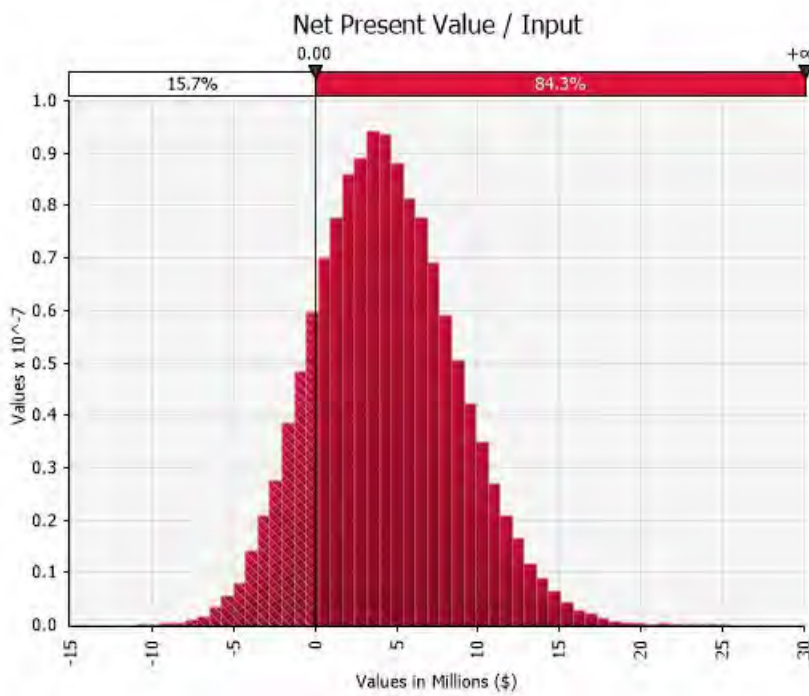
1 value to be 100% of the modeled cost, the minimum to be 95%, and the maximum
2 to be 115%. However, for better established data sets with less subjectivity, the
3 Company was able to define those data sets as normally distributed and assign a
4 mean and standard deviation. The Company used a binomial distribution for the
5 PTC rate and applied an 80% probability that the Project will qualify for the
6 Domestic Content bonus and a 20% probability that the Project will only qualify for
7 the base PTC rate.

8 **Q. What were the results of the Monte Carlo simulations?**

9 A. The simulation was processed with 100,000 unique iterations and indicates an
10 84.3% probability that the project will be NPV positive and yield a benefit-cost ratio
11 of 1.0 or greater for customers. The results of the simulation have an average NPV
12 of \$4.3 million and a median NPV of \$4.1 million. The results of the simulation
13 show an average BCR of 1.26 and a median BCR of 1.24. The skewness of the
14 simulation is positive, between 0.2 and 0.3 indicating fairly symmetrical results with
15 slightly more observations above the mean than below. A negative skew value
16 indicates a higher probability for observations less than the mean while a positive
17 skew value indicates a higher probability for observations greater than the mean.
18 The kurtosis of the simulation, which is a measurement of the “tails” or “flatness”
19 of a distribution, is approximately 3.0 and indicates the dataset is normally
20 distributed. A kurtosis greater than 3.0 is Leptokurtic and less than 3.0 is Platykurtic.
21 Higher kurtosis values indicate that more of the observations are in the “tails” of the
22 curve, while lower kurtosis values indicate observations relatively more

1 concentrated around the mean. Given that the mean and median of the simulations
2 are similar, the results are largely symmetrical as indicated by the skewness, and the
3 kurtosis is approximately 3.0 the Company concludes the results of the simulation
4 are “normally distributed”. The 90th percentile of the results show the possibility
5 of an NPV of \$9.9 million and a BCR of 1.59 or better, while the 10th percentile
6 shows the potential for an NPV of (\$1.0 million) and a BCR of 0.94 or worse. Figure
7 1 and Figure 2 below illustrate the distribution of the results of the 100,000 unique
8 iterations included in the scenario.

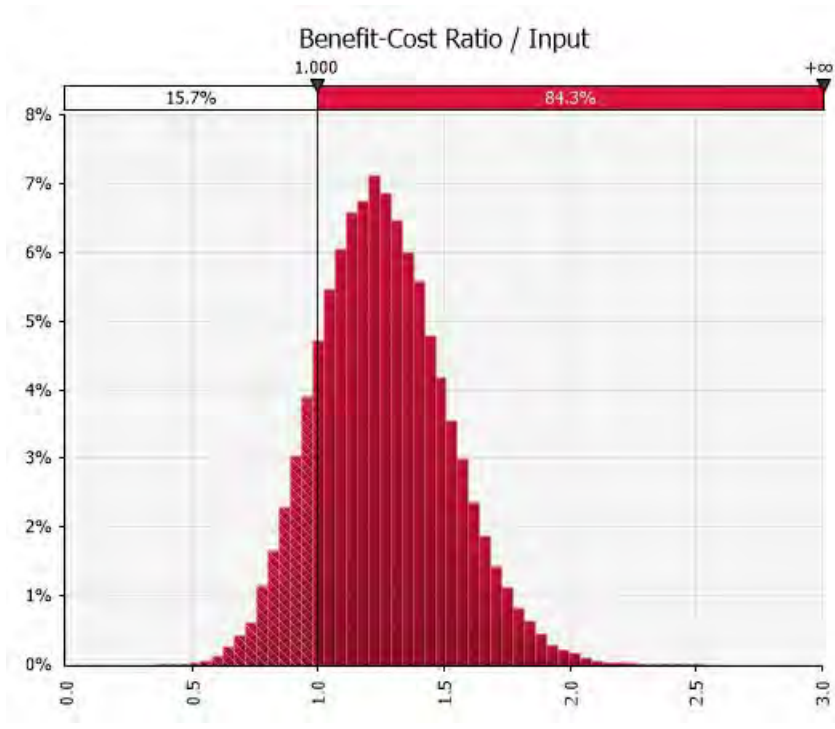
9 **Figure 1: Simulation Results of Net Present Value**



10

1

Figure 2: Simulation Results of Benefit-Cost Ratio



2

3 **Q. Please provide the results of the simulation by ranked percentiles.**

4 A. Table 12, shown below, illustrates the ranked NPV and BCR results by percentile.

5 The 50th percentile represents the median data point of \$4.1 million for the NPV

6 and 1.24 for the BCR. The average of the results are slightly higher as a result of the

7 positive skew value. Notably, the results in Exhibit SP-7 are similar to the 35th

8 percentile in Table 12 reflecting the conservative assumptions included in the

9 Benefit-Cost model.

1

Table 12: Simulation Results Ranked by Percentile

Percentile	Net Present Value	Benefit-Cost Ratio
1.0%	(4,807,353)	0.72
2.5%	(3,526,266)	0.80
5.0%	(2,401,678)	0.86
10.0%	(1,045,952)	0.94
20.0%	641,349	1.04
25.0%	1,316,598	1.08
30.0%	1,934,745	1.11
35.0%	2,503,388	1.15
40.0%	3,070,847	1.18
45.0%	3,607,570	1.21
50.0%	4,132,047	1.24
55.0%	4,671,899	1.27
60.0%	5,232,628	1.31
65.0%	5,838,370	1.34
70.0%	6,457,532	1.38
75.0%	7,124,508	1.42
80.0%	7,879,678	1.47
90.0%	9,933,677	1.59
95.0%	11,645,432	1.69
97.5%	13,149,104	1.79
99.0%	14,850,923	1.90

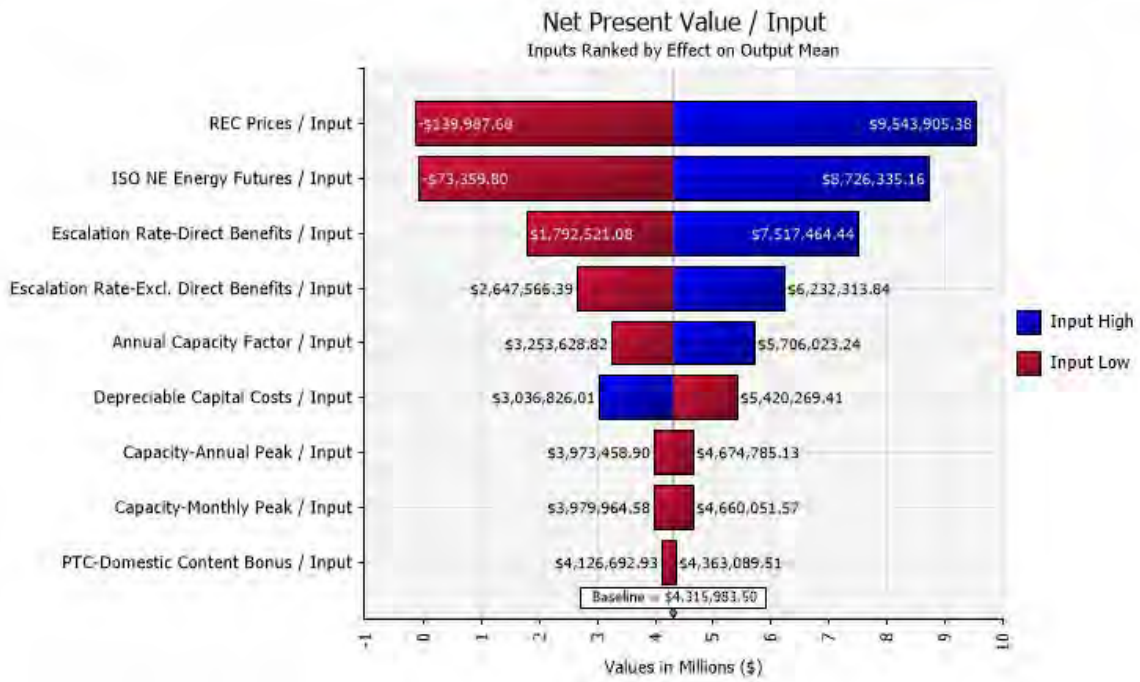
2

3 **Q. Which inputs have the greatest impact on the economics of the Project?**

4 A. The REC prices, Energy Rates, and escalation rate used for the direct benefits have
 5 the most variability on the results. The capacity at monthly and annual peaks have
 6 relatively less variability on the results. Figures 3 and 4 shown below, rank the
 7 variability of each input and display the largest impacts each assumption had on the
 8 NPV and BCR.

1

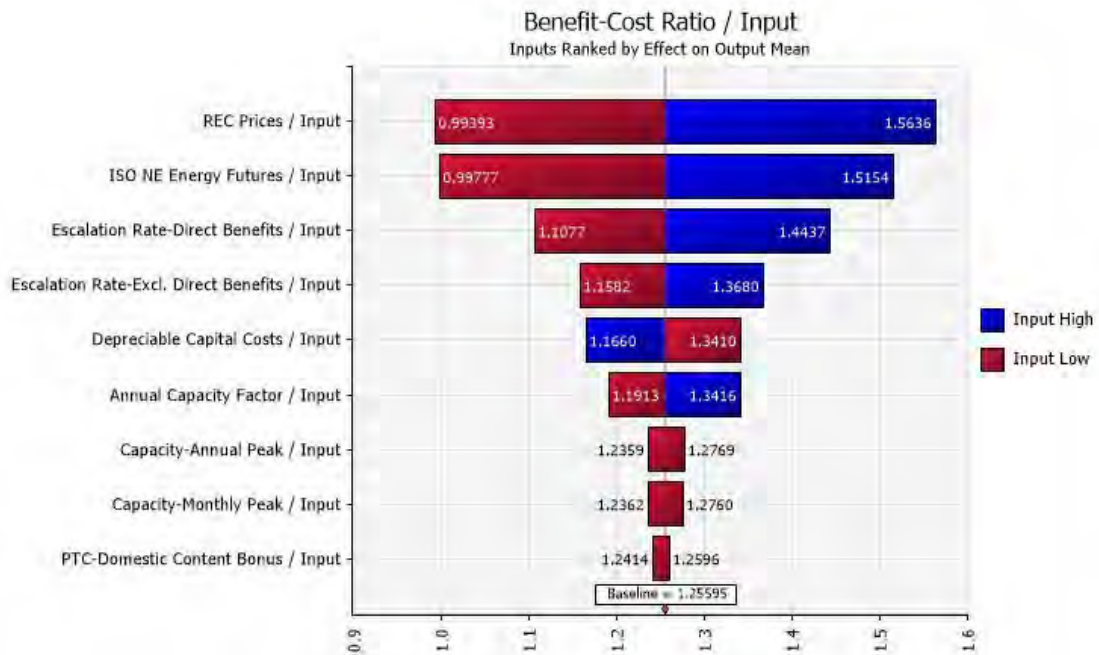
Figure 3: Tornado Graph of Net Present Value



2

3

Figure 4: Tornado Graph of Benefit-Cost Ratio



4

1 **Q. Please provide any other comments on the simulation analysis.**

2 A. The simulation analysis was conducted with reasonable distributions and
3 parameters, which resulted in reasonable results. The simulations included
4 conservative assumptions such as the potential for up to 15% depreciable capital
5 cost overruns as well as a minimum REC price of zero dollars. The results show a
6 strong probability that the Project will yield positive results for customers purely on
7 direct benefits. These favorable results would be further supported if indirect
8 benefits and the value of the future option to add energy storage were included. The
9 Company has a high degree of confidence that the Project will yield positive
10 economic results for customers as supported by the results of the simulation.

11 **VI. CONCLUSION**

12 **Q. Please summarize your Supplemental Testimony.**

13 A. The Kingston Solar Project is a meaningful long-term commitment to addressing
14 New Hampshire's climate objectives in a manner that provides tangible benefits to
15 the Company's customers, is cost-effective, and enables economic growth in the
16 state. The updated Benefit-Cost Analysis presented in this Joint Supplemental
17 Testimony continues to demonstrate that the direct benefits of the Project outweigh
18 the costs over the investment horizon. The Kingston Solar Project is good for
19 customers and good for the state of New Hampshire. Accordingly, the Commission
20 should find the Kingston Solar Project is in the public interest.

1 **Q. Does this conclude your Supplemental Testimony?**

2 **A. Yes, it does.**