

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 22-078

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.

**2023 Reliability Enhancement Program and Vegetation Management Program
Plan**

Order Accepting 2023 Plan

ORDER NO. 26,879

August 31, 2023

In this order, the Commission accepts Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.'s 2023 Plan, subject to reconciliation in 2024 when final Reliability Enhancement Program and Vegetation Management Program costs for 2023 will be reported.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (Unitil) filed its 2023 Reliability Enhancement Program (REP) and Vegetation Management Program Plan (VMP) on November 22, 2022. Unitil filed its reconciliation of the 2022 REP and VMP on March 31, 2023. The reconciliation showed a total under-collection of \$608,368. In Order No. 26,865 the Commission approved the reconciliation mechanism to recoup the under-collection.

II. BACKGROUND

Unitil filed its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment, Stranded Cost, and External Delivery Charge Reconciliation in Docket No. DE 23-057. In that docket, the Commission issued Order No. 26,865 (July 31, 2023) approving reconciliation and collection, through the external delivery charge (EDC), of the 2022 REP and VMP under-collected amount of \$608,368. *See Id.* at 5. The EDC is reconciled annually with actual audited and approved costs reconciled with collected revenues.

The Department of Energy (DOE) reviewed Unitil's 2023 REP and VMP plan and recommended, through a May 05, 2023 technical statement, that the Commission accept the plan as filed, subject to audit review in 2024 of the actual costs of 2023 REP and VMP by the DOE.

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

Pursuant to the Commission's general supervisory powers over the public utilities it regulates, the Commission reviews Unitil's proposed spending plan for REP and VMP during 2023. See RSA 374:1, :2, :3, :4, and :5. We have reviewed the proposed spending plan for 2023 and find it reasonable. The projected costs of this plan will be reconciled to actual costs in the update to be filed on or before April 1, 2024. At that time, the Commission will consider recovery of any over- or under-collections through Unitil's EDC. The final REP and VMP cost reconciliation for 2023 will be subject to review and audit by the DOE. The Commission directs Unitil to submit the actual to proposed costs comparison for the REP and VMP 2022 Report along with the reconciliation and a comparison of actual to proposed costs for 2023, to facilitate the Commission's review of the 2023 reconciliation report.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

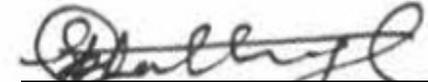
ORDERED, Unitil's 2023 REP and VMP report is **ACCEPTED**, with final planned costs subject to reconciliation to actual costs by Unitil, review and audit by the DOE, and approval by the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Unitil shall submit its 2022 REP and VMP reconciliation with its 2023 REP and VMP reconciliation with clarification of any deviations from planned spending to allow an actual to planned cost comparison as well as a year over year comparison.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirty-first day of August, 2023.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-078

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