



DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
DAVID EMERTON
UNITED STEELWORKERS, LOCAL 12012-6
DOCKET NUMBER DG 08-048
UNITIL MERGER

1. Introduction and Qualifications

Q. Please state your full name, business address and title.

A. David P. Emerton
Unit Chairperson
United Steelworkers, Local 12012-6
73 Rt 9
Barrington, NH 03825

Q. Please describe your educational background and professional experience.

A. I have worked in the gas industry for 18 years. I am employed by Northern Utilities, Inc. as an Service Technician.

I have Maine and New Hampshire certifications for Gas service work.

2. Purpose of Testimony

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. I speak on behalf of my union members in opposition to the proposed merger.

Q. Please state why you are opposed to the merger:

A. Unutil's post merger operational plans are not clearly defined. The Salem, Plaistow, Atkinson areas are geographically distant from the main base of operations in Portsmouth. With a 50 minute travel time, the current levels of response times, safety and service can not be maintained. Unutil has stated its intentions to more thoroughly evaluate work loads and emergency response requirements. However, they do not currently have detailed operational plans to address these critical issues. It is unknown as to what information Nisource can or has provided to assist in this process.

Q. What is your rationale for the Union's proposal?

A. The safety of the workers and general public require prompt response times and quality personnel. Unutil wishes to assume a greater responsibility without the resources to do so. The proposed merger leaves open the probability that Unutil will need additional labor to meet its obligations. It is estimated that three service technicians, three distribution technicians, one gas operations technician and one storekeeper will be needed in the above area.

3. Conclusion

Q. Does that conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.