## THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**DE 23-002 (Phase II)** 

#### UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

### **Proposed Purchase of Receivables Program**

# UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC. MOTION FOR HYBRID HEARING

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (the "Company") respectfully requests that the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission"), pursuant to Puc 203.07, conduct the October 1, 2024 hearing in this docket on a hybrid basis to allow participation by a Company witness who cannot appear in person due to health reasons. In support of this motion, the Company states:

- 1. On August 7, 2024, the Commission issued a Supplemental Order of Notice ("Notice") setting a hearing date for this matter of October 1, 2024.
- 2. In addition, the Notice provided that the hearing would be held in person, but that the Commission would consider "requests to conduct hearings using a hybrid format to permit remote participation by a specific individual only if the Commission has determined that a sufficient reason has been provided for why that individual would be unable to attend in person." Notice at 2. The Commission further noted that any party requesting remote participation must do so no later than 15 days prior to the hearing. *Id*.
- 3. The Company requests that S. Elena Demeris be permitted to participate in the October 1, 2024 hearing remotely. Due to a health condition that results in mobility issues, Ms. Demeris is unable to travel to Concord for the October 1st hearing. Subject to that limitation, Ms. Demeris is otherwise qualified and capable of participating in the hearing. The Commission has previously

granted requests for Ms. Demeris to participate remotely in other Commission hearings,<sup>1</sup> and the Company believes that granting this request for a hybrid hearing will not prejudice any of the parties to this docket or the Commission, and will not impede the efficiency of the proceedings.

4. Good cause exists for a hybrid hearing because it is necessary for the safety and health of the Company's witness and will not cause prejudice to any party to this proceeding or the Commission. The Company notes that its counsel and all other witnesses will be present in person at the hearing. The Company therefore respectfully requests that the October 1st hearing be conducted on a hybrid basis to allow for remote participation by Company witness S. Elena Demeris.

**WHEREFORE**, Unitil respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Conduct the October 1, 2024 hearing in this matter on a hybrid basis to allow for remote participation by Company witness S. Elena Demeris; and
  - B. Grant such further relief as may be just and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

By its Attorney:

Dated: August 21, 2024

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See e.g., February 21, 2023 Procedural Order in Docket No. 23-003; October 14, 2022 Procedural Order in Docket No. 22-059; April 11, 2022 Procedural Order in Docket No. DE 20-092.

# **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that on August 21, 2024, a copy of the foregoing was electronically served upon the Service List.

Watthw complete
Matthew C. Campbell