

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 24-033

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

Petition to Increase Storm Recovery Adjustment Factor

Order *Nisi* Finalizing Approval of Storm Recovery Adjustment Rates

O R D E R N O. 27,073

November 14, 2024

On May 31, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 27,013, in which it approved Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.'s (UES) 2023 Major Storm Cost Recover (MSCR) Fund Report, which reported a deferral balance of \$3,654,362, subject to final audit from the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE). *See* Order No. 27,013 (outlining UES's 2023 MSCR Report Fund in greater detail and explaining the purposes of the MSCR Fund). In addition, the Commission approved UES's accompanying petition to amend its tariff to recover the deferral balance in the MSCR Fund over a three-year period through the Storm Recovery Adjustment Factor (SRAF). *Id.* (explaining the proposal in greater detail, including the relationship between the MSCR Fund and the SRAF, and finding the proposal to be just and reasonable on the grounds that it would reduce future carrying costs for ratepayers). Finally, consistent with this tariff change, the Commission authorized UES to implement a new SRAF rate of \$0.00114 per kWh effective June 1, 2024, to recover the reported deferral balance. *Id.* Because this rate was based on the reported \$3,654,362 deferral balance, this approval was also subject to the DOE's final audit.

On August 1, 2024, the DOE submitted its final report and technical statement, in which it represented that both the reported storm recovery costs in the 2023 MSCR

Fund Report and the reported deferral balance were accurate as of December 31, 2023. Accordingly, the DOE recommended that the Commission issue final approval of the 2023 MSCR Fund Report and the SRAF rate.

Consistent with Order No. 27,013, the sole remaining issue in this docket is whether the reported costs in the 2023 MSCR Fund Report, as well as the reported deferral balance, were accurate. Relying on the DOE's final audit report and technical statement, the Commission finds that the reported costs and deferral balance were accurate, and therefore finalizes approval of the 2023 MSCR Fund Report. Moreover, because the currently effective SRAF rate is based on the reported deferral balance, there is no need to make any changes to the authorized rate.

ORDERED *NISI*, that subject to the effective date below, the petitioner's 2023 MSCR Fund Report is **APPROVED**, including the reported deferral balance of \$3,654,362 as of December 31, 2023; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, based on the results of the DOE's final audit report, no adjustments to the authorized SRAF rate are necessary; and it is

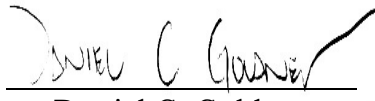
FURTHER ORDERED, that UES shall post a copy of this order on its website within two business days after the date of this order, with an affidavit of publication to be filed with this office on or before November 26, 2024; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this order be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing, stating the reason and basis for a hearing, no later than December 2, 2024 for the Commission's consideration; and it is

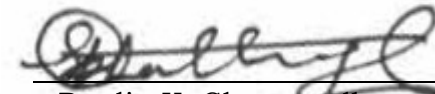
FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than December 9, 2024; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective December 16, 2024, unless UES fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fourteenth day of November, 2024.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 24-033

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Email Addresses

ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov
campbellm@unitil.com
Energy-Litigation@energy.nh.gov
paul.b.dexter@energy.nh.gov
Stephen.R.Eckberg@energy.nh.gov
elizabeth.r.nixon@energy.nh.gov
amanda.o.noonan@energy.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
mary.e.schwarzer@energy.nh.gov
mark.p.toscano@energy.nh.gov
jacqueline.m.trottier@energy.nh.gov