

February 23, 2007

### **BY HAND-DELIVERY**

Debra A. Howland Executive Director and Secretary State of New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 S. Fruit St, Suite 10 Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

#### Re: Docket No. DT 07-011

Dear Director Howland:

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On behalf of Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. ("Unitil"), enclosed please find an original and seven (7) copies of a Petition to Intervene in the above-captioned matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sinferely, Gary Eoler

Enclosure

cc: Victor Del Vecchio, Esq. Steven V. Camerino, Esq. Frederick J. Coolbroth, Esq.

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Gary Epler Senior Counsel 6 Liberty Lane West Hampton, NH 03842-1720

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## THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE Before the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

# Joint Application by Verizon New England, Inc., Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc. NYNEX Long Distance Company, Verizon Select Services and FairPoint Communications, Inc.

Docket No. DT 07-011

## UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC. PETITION TO INTERVENE

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. ("Unitil" or "Company") hereby respectfully petitions for full party intervenor status in the above captioned matter pursuant to RSA 541-A: 32 and N.H. Code of Admin. Proc. Puc 203.17. In support of its Petition, Unitil states the following:

1. On January 31, 2007, Verizon New England, Inc., Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc. NYNEX Long Distance Company, Verizon Select Services (together "Verizon") and FairPoint Communications, Inc. ("FairPoint") filed a Joint Application for authority to transfer Verizon's local exchange and long distance business in New Hampshire to companies to be controlled by FairPoint. Joint Application at 2.

2. Unitil is a New Hampshire corporation and public utility primarily engaged in the distribution of electricity in the capital and southeastern seacoast regions of New Hampshire. Unitil's primary place of business is located at 6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton, New Hampshire.

3. Pursuant to an Agreement dated November 1, 1996, and Inter-company Operating Procedures dated November 1, 1996, Unitil and Verizon each own an undivided one-half interest in most of the utility poles, anchors and guys ("utility pole plant") located within the franchise common service territories served by both Unitil and Verizon. The Agreement and Intercompany Operating Procedures govern how the joint pole plant is to be acquired, operated and maintained, and how the costs and responsibilities of joint ownership are to be apportioned. Unitil submits that issues related to the joint ownership of this utility pole plant have had, and will continue to have, a significant impact upon the cost, quality of service and safety of service to its customers. Issues raised or which may be raised in this docket concerning the transfer of Verizon's one half interest in the utility pole plant to FairPoint, and any action the Commission may take with respect to the this transfer or other aspects of the Joint Application may impact the rights, duties and interests of Unitil or its customers. These interests are substantial and are not adequately represented by any other party to this proceeding.

5. Unitil's Petition for Intervention is timely as it has been filed on or before February 23, 2007, as provided in the February 7, 2007 Order of Notice, at page 3. Granting of Unitil's Petition for Intervention would not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings.

6. Unitil has advised the Verizon and FairPoint of its intent to intervene in this proceeding.

WHEREFORE Unitil respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Petition to Intervene and such further relief as may be just and equitable.

> Respectfully submitted, Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.

By: ary Epler

Chief Regulatory Counsel Unitil Service Corp. 6 Liberty Lane West Hampton, NH 03842-1720 603.773.6440 (direct) 603.773.6640 (fax) epler@unitil.com

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the date written below, a copy of the above Petition to Intervene was sent by overnight express mail to counsel for Verizon and FairPoint, and hand-delivered to the Office of Consumer Advocate.

FEBRUARY 23, 2007 Date