



April 8, 2016

Barbara Barbara Barhydt
Development Review Services Manager
Planning Division
389 Congress Street, 4th Floor
Portland, ME 04101

Re: Joint Unitil/MDOT Joint Natural Gas Relocation Application to Amend Site Plan, and Application for Conditional Use Permit, on MDOT's West Commercial Street Property

Dear Ms. Barhydt:

On behalf of Northern Utilities, Inc., d/b/a Unitil, please find enclosed two permit applications to relocate natural gas facilities on West Commercial Street land owned by the State of Maine/Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) that abuts the International Marine Terminal (Site). Unitil has the right, title and interest to file the applications pursuant to its Gas Facility Relocation Agreement with MDOT, which Agreement specifies easement areas on the Site for Unitil to relocate its existing gas facilities.

Unitil's gas facilities must be relocated to other locations on the Site so MDOT can complete its intermodal transportation Project as previously approved by the City Planning Board. *See* MDOT Site Plan Permit, #2014-038, August 12, 2014, as amended. MDOT therefore joins Unitil in its application to amend MDOT's Site Plan to allow the gas facilities relocation, and joins in its application to obtain a conditional use permit for the same purpose. *See* the enclosed MDOT letter joining in the applications.

The two Unitil/MDOT permit applications are intended to conform to the guidance of the City Planning Department as provided at pre-application meetings held in November 2015 and February 2016. We understand, as to each of the applications, that it is sufficient to cross-reference to MDOT's approved Site Plan application, as amended, for Project features and conditions that will not be changed by the gas facility relocation work, such as the Site's wetland evaluation, boundary survey certification, significant natural features, traffic analysis and utility capacity to serve. With each such cross-reference, the applications represent that there is no material change from the approved Site Plan as to that matter for review.

In preparing and presenting the applications, Unitil is assisted by Rebecca Gabryszewski at the engineering firm of AMEC Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, with offices on Congress Street, and Peggy McGehee at the law firm of Perkins Thompson, with offices on One Canal Plaza. Both firms are authorized to act on Unitil's and MDOT's behalf for these

application purposes. Bob Schumrick and I, here at Unitil, are also available, as is Rick Paraschak of MDOT.

Please find enclosed with this letter the application fees for the two permit applications in the total amount of \$500.00.

Thank you for your timely consideration of these applications. It is critical to MDOT that the gas facilities be relocated by October 1, 2016 to enable it to commence the next phase of the Project as planned. Further, Unitil must relocate the gas facilities by October 1 because it cannot interrupt gas services to complete the relocation after that date, when the winter heating season officially begins. MDOT and Unitil therefore appreciate anything the City can do to expedite review, and we stand ready to respond quickly to any request for additional information you may have.

Sincerely,



Matt Doughty
Project Manager
Unitil
376 Riverside Industrial Parkway
Portland, Maine 04103

cc. Rick Paraschak, MDOT