

O Unitil

Fourth Quarter 2019

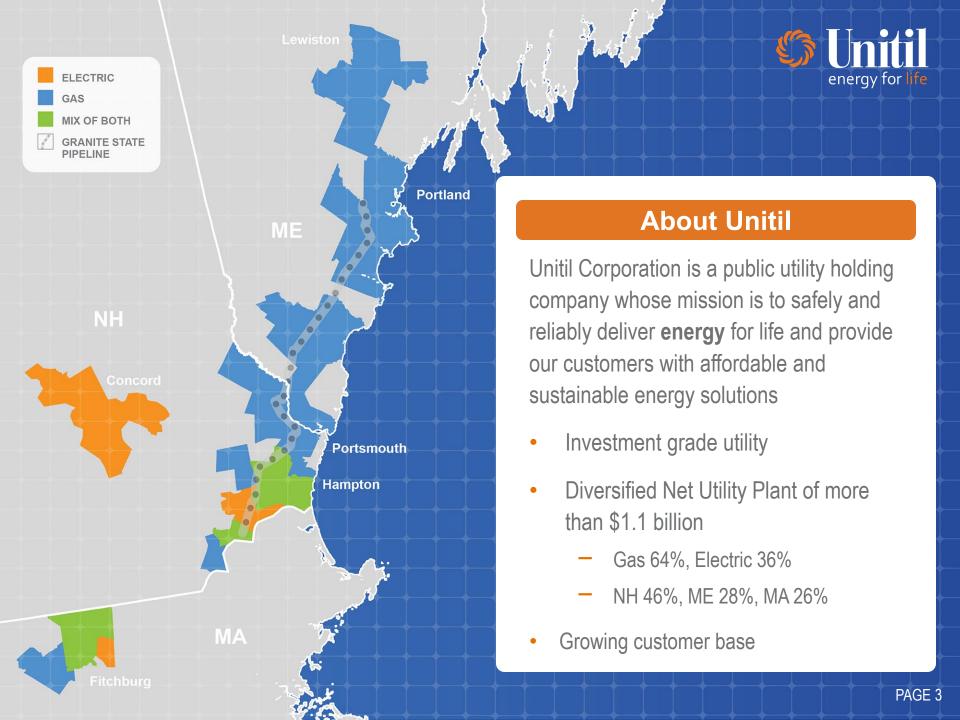
**EARNINGS CONFERENCE CALL** 

### **SAFE HARBOR PROVISION**

This presentation contains "forward-looking statements" made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements include statements regarding Unitil Corporation's ("Unitil") financial condition, results of operations, capital expenditures, business strategy, regulatory strategy, market opportunities, and other plans and objectives. In some cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by terminology such as "may," "will," "should," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "predicts," "potential" or "continue", the negative of such terms, or other comparable terminology.

These forward-looking statements are neither promises nor guarantees, but involve risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. Those risks and uncertainties include: Unitil's regulatory environment (including regulations relating to climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental matters); fluctuations in the supply of, demand for, and the prices of energy commodities and transmission capacity and Unitil's ability to recover energy commodity costs in its rates; customers' preferred energy sources; severe storms and Unitil's ability to recover storm costs in its rates; general economic conditions; changes in taxation; variations in weather; long-term global climate change; catastrophic events; numerous hazards and operating risks relating to Unitil's electric and natural gas distribution activities; Unitil's ability to retain its existing customers and attract new customers; Unitil's energy brokering customers' performance and energy used under multi-year energy brokering contracts; increased competition; integrity and security of operational and information systems; publicity and reputational risks; and other risks detailed in Unitil's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including those appearing under the caption "Risk Factors" in Unitil's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019.

Readers should not place undue reliance on any forward looking statements, which speak only as of the date they are made. Except as may be required by law, Unitil undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect any change in Unitil's expectations or in events, conditions, or circumstances on which any such statements may be based, or that may affect the likelihood that actual results will differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.



### Q4 2019 FINANCIAL RESULTS

- For the three months ended December 31, 2019 Net Income of \$11.4 million or \$0.77 per share
  - Increase of \$0.4 million or \$0.03 per share compared to 2018
- For the year ended December 31, 2019 Net Income is \$44.2 million or \$2.97 per share
  - Excluding the divestiture gain for the sale of Usource of \$9.8 million or \$0.66 per share,
     Net Income is up \$1.4 million or \$0.08 per share

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Twelve Months Ended December 31,	
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Net Income (in millions)	\$11.4	\$11.0	\$44.2	\$33.0
Earnings Per Share	\$0.77	\$0.74	\$2.97	\$2.23

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY Q4 2019



#### **Usource Divestiture**

# Successfully divested of non-regulated energy brokering and advisory business

- Recognized after-tax gain of \$9.8 million or \$0.66 per share
- Net proceeds invested into regulated subsidiaries



#### **Net Utility Plant**



Increase in net utility
plant driven from
growing investment
program, funded, in part,
by proceeds from
Usource divestiture

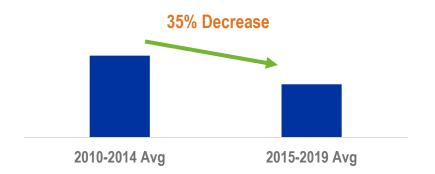
(1) 2019 EPS excludes the divestiture gain of \$0.66 per share



### **OPERATIONAL SUMMARY** Q4 2019

#### **Electric Reliability**

2019 was lowest recorded system average interruption time in Company history



#### **Additional Gas Mains**

Successfully added 23
miles of new
distribution gas mains
and also replaced and
modernized 12 miles
existing of gas mains



#### **Gas Emergency Response Time**

Percentage of calls responded to in under 60 minutes



#### **New Operations Center Under Construction**



Broke ground on new NH operations facility (1)





### STRONG SHAREHOLDER RETURN

Annualized Returns	1-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Unitil	25.3%	14.5%	15.2%
Dow Jones Utility	27.3%	11.0%	12.4%
S&P 500	31.5%	11.7%	13.6%

Received the Edison Electric
Institute Index award for
Outstanding Stock Performance
over the past five years for small
market capitalization



### **INVESTMENT** THEMES

#### Low Risk

- Pure play regulated utility
- Electric revenue protected by decoupling mechanisms
- Gas revenue fully decoupled in Massachusetts
- Investment grade credit ratings

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#### **Customer Growth**

- Robust economic development along our seacoast service areas
  - \$7.8 billion of new construction planned or underway
- Opportunity for continued on-the-main gas customer conversion
- Added 49 miles of new gas mains in the past 3 years



#### **Investment Opportunities**

- Significant investment opportunities for continued rate base growth
- Distribution system modernization
- Electrification projects
- Precedent for capital trackers across all regulatory jurisdictions





### **GAS** SALES & MARGIN









#### **♦ Weather Normal Unit Sales up 4.2%**

- Increase in unit sales reflects strong C&I growth as well as 1,152 additional customers added
- Existing non-heat residential customers transitioning to gas as a source of heat

#### **↑** Sales Margin up \$5.3 million

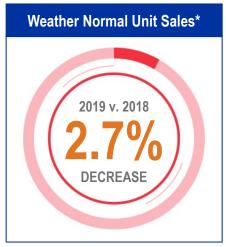
- \$5.6 million increase due to higher natural gas distribution rates
- \$0.9 million increase due to higher therm sales driven by customer growth partially offset by milder winter weather
- Less \$1.2 million adjustment in 2018 connected with a NH base rate case

<sup>\*</sup>Weather normal sales excludes decoupled sales units



### **ELECTRIC SALES & MARGIN**









#### Weather Normal Unit Sales down 2.7%

- Decrease reflects lower average usage overall, slightly offset by new customers
- Decoupling mechanisms mitigate impact of unit sales on margin
  - Fully decoupled in MA
  - In NH, roughly half of the decline in weather normal sales are recoverable via regulatory mechanisms

#### Sales Margin flat

- \$1.6 million increase due to higher distribution rates
- \$1.6 million decrease due to lower kWh sales due to milder summer weather

\*Weather normal sales excludes decoupled sales units



### **EARNINGS VARIANCE:** 2019 VS 2018

- Gas and Electric sales margin up \$5.3 million, offset by \$3.8 million less Usource revenue as a result of the divestiture
- O&M is lower by \$2.3 million
  - \$1.2 million less O&M as a result of a 2018 non-recurring adjustment in connection with a rate case
  - \$2.4 million less O&M incurred as a result of the Usource divestiture
  - Absent these items O&M increased \$1.3 million or 2.0%, largely a result of higher labor costs
- Depreciation & Amortization and Taxes Other Than Income Taxes trended higher due to higher utility plant, partially offset by property tax abatements realized in 2019
- Interest Expense is slightly lower due to lower interest on long-term debt, offset by higher average shortterm borrowings
- Other Expense is lower by \$1.0 million as a result of lower retirement benefit costs
- Usource after-tax divestiture gain of \$9.8 million
- Income Taxes increased due to higher pre-tax earnings





### FINANCING ACTIVITY

### Unitil Corporation closed on \$30 million of senior unsecured notes in Q4

- The proceeds reduced short term borrowings and reduced exposure to interest rate volatility
- The remaining proceeds invested as equity into the regulated subsidiaries
- Considering a prepayment option for \$20 million of 6.33% Corporate Notes in Q2 2020



Well positioned to continue refinancing long-term debt at lower interest rates

Maturing Debt <sup>(1)</sup>	Principle	Interest Rate (2)
FY 2020	\$39.8 mm	6.1%
FY 2021	\$8.6 mm	7.2%
FY 2022	\$8.2 mm	7.5%
Total	\$56.6 mm	6.5%

<sup>2)</sup> Interest rate is weighted based on principle amounts of maturing debt

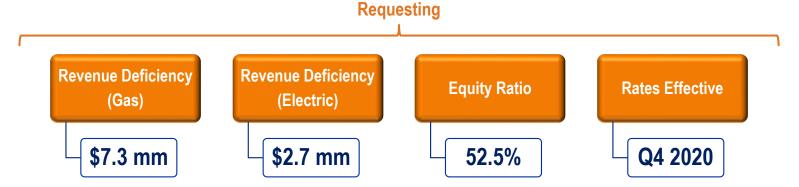


<sup>(1)</sup> FY 2020 includes prepayment option for \$20 million corporate notes

### **REGULATORY** ACTIVITY

#### **Rate Cases - Massachusetts**

Fitchburg (Gas and Electric) filed its rate cases in December, 2019. Electric filing seeking approval of performance-based ratemaking plan.



### Rate Case - Maine

Northern Utilities (ME only) gas base rate case continues to progress as planned



### **Other Activity**

Limited exposure to new transmission FERC base ROE methodology (MISO Complaint <sup>(1)</sup>)

Electric transmission less than 1% of total rate base

Regulatory approval received for longterm capacity agreement increasing gas supply 11% in NH and Maine



Docket EL14-12

# Q4 2019 RETURN ON EQUITY

Company	Average Common Equity	12/19 LTM ROE (1)	
Northern Utilities (New Hampshire)	¢211	7.7%	
Northern Utilities (Maine)	\$211		
Unitil Energy	\$91	8.4%	
Fitchburg (Electric)	фо <b>л</b>	C 70/	
Fitchburg (Gas)	\$82	6.7%	
Granite State	\$17	7.8%	
Unitil Corporation <sup>(2)</sup>	\$364	12.2%	

<sup>(2)</sup> Unitil Corporation LTM ROE excluding the one-time divestiture gain from the sale of Usource is 9.5%



<sup>(1)</sup> ROE calculated by dividing last twelve months GAAP Net Income by Average Common Equity

### **2019 RATE RELIEF SUMMARY**

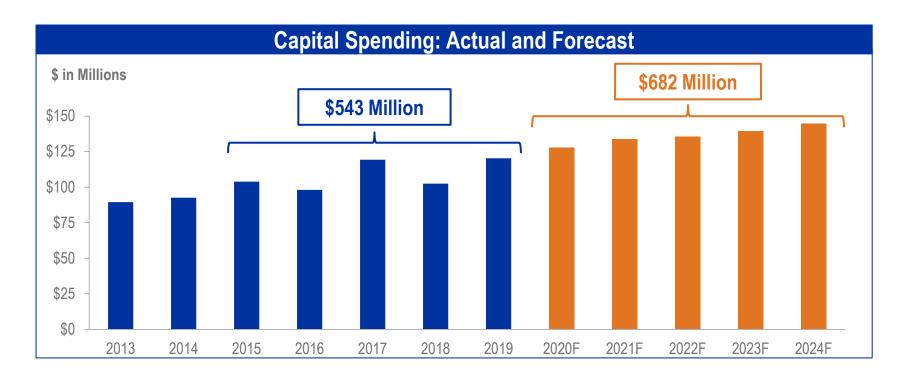
Company	Activity	Dollars (in Millions)	Date Effective
Northern Utilities (New Hampshire)	2018 Rate Relief (Net of TCJA)	\$0.6	Q1/Q2 2018
	Capital Tracker - 2019	\$1.4	Q2 2019
Northern Utilities (Maine)	2018 Rate Relief (Net of TCJA)	\$1.0	Q1/Q2 2018
	Capital Tracker – 2019	\$1.0	Q2 2019
Unitil Energy	2018 Rate Relief (Net of TCJA)	(\$0.3)	Q1/Q2 2018
	Capital Tracker – 2019	\$0.3	Q2 2019
Fitchburg (Electric)	2018 Rate Relief (Net of TCJA)	(\$0.1)	Q1/Q2 2018
	Electric Capital Tracker – 2019	\$0.9	Q2 2019
Fitchburg (Gas)	2018 Rate Relief (Net of TCJA) Gas Capital Tracker – 2019	\$0.1 \$1.0	Q1/Q2 2018 Q2 2019
Granite State	2018 Rate Relief (Net of TCJA)	\$0.0	Q2 2018

Over \$4 million in 2019 rate relief awarded outside of rate cases



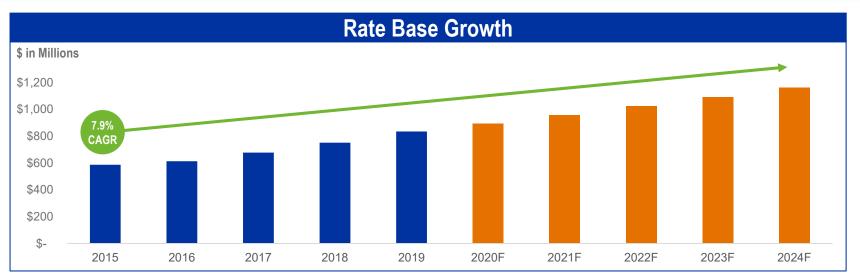
### **INVESTMENT** OUTLOOK

- Increasing investment program to support gas system growth and distribution system modernization
  - 25.6% more spending planned in the next 5 years compared to prior 5 years
- Capital spending forecast of \$128 million in 2020

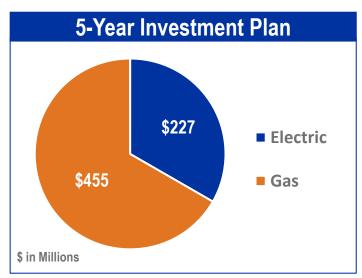




### RATE BASE GROWTH



- Forecasting 7.5% to 8.5% rate base growth over the next 5 years
  - Gas growth rate about 70-100 basis points higher than electric
- Growth could be accelerated as a result of additional investment in:
  - Grid modernization program in NH
  - Electric vehicle infrastructure projects
  - Gas supply peaking projects

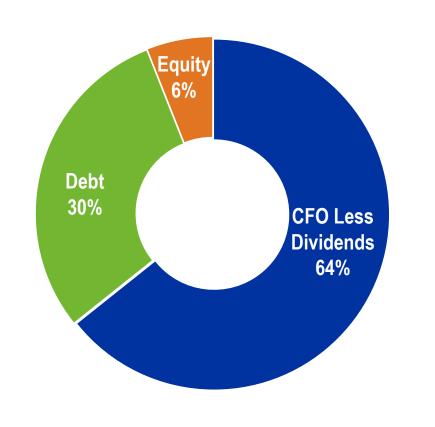




### **CAPITAL SOURCES** FIVE-YEAR PLAN

#### **Financing Sources**

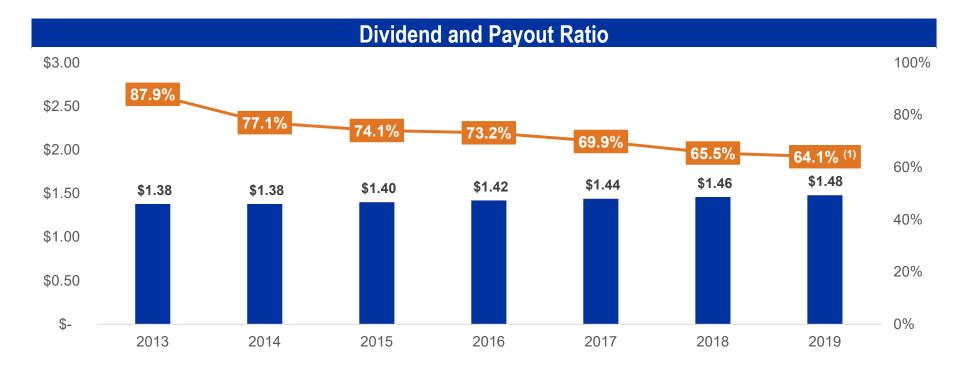
- Capital investment funded primarily from cash flow from operations less dividend payments
  - Declining payout ratio reinvests income and reduces external financing requirements
- The remaining investment program is funded through both Debt and Common Equity to maintain a balanced capital structure
  - Equity proceeds can include the Dividend Reinvestment and 401(k) programs as well as common stock offerings



### **DIVIDEND** POLICY

Strategically reducing the payout ratio to plowback earnings into the investment program





(1) 2019 payout ratio excludes the Usource divestiture gain of \$0.66 per share



### **KEY** INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Regulated local distribution utility business model
- Growing service areas and customer base
- Diversified natural gas and electric operations
- Dividend strength
- Experienced management team

