

Patricia Martin
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August 6, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

Debra Howland Executive Director and Secretary
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord New Hampshire 03301

RE: DG 16-852

Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities
Petition for Expansion of Franchise to the Town of Hanover and City of Lebanon

Dear Ms. Howland:

I respectfully request that the Public Utilities Commission deny Liberty Utilities a franchise to the Town of Hanover and the City of Lebanon. Granting a franchise does not align with the deep community commitment to tackling climate change in meaningful and measurable ways.

Last week I attended a special screening of “An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power” and the ensuing panel discussion with the sponsors of the event. The film makes it clear that we must stop fossil fuel infrastructure expansion NOW. The film isn’t explicit about how we are supposed to make that happen, but approving large infrastructure investments in gas distribution is not a bridge; it’s more of a gangplank.

Although fracked gas is at record low prices today, we must remember that the goal of the industry is not to continue pumping cheap gas; but to increase demand (and prices) via export facilities like Pieridae’s Goldboro LNG terminal currently under construction in Nova Scotia. The Goldboro website reports that it will be fed via the Maritimes & Northeast pipeline which reversed its flow during the Atlantic Bridge project. The future of cheap fracked gas is uncertain, <http://www.utilitydive.com/news/naruc-2017-are-the-days-of-cheap-natural-gas-numbered/447437/>

Thank you very much for considering my comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia A Martin