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Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

**Re: Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities
Request to Extend Until August 1, 2017 the Deadline for Filing EnergyNorth's Next
LCIRP**

Dear Ms. Howland:

I just learned of a letter from Liberty Utilities, dated November 29, 2016, requesting that the PUC extend the deadline for filing their next Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan. In the letter, Liberty Utilities alludes to "new sources of supply and capacity," which have only been shared with PUC staff and the OCA, as the cause for the delay. Liberty argues that meeting the deadline would necessitate extra work for them.

As a consumer, I am appalled by a request that will give the appearance of substantial regulatory capture. Moreover, it seems to me that an LCIRP that presents options that do NOT account for "new sources of supply and capacity," particularly "supply options including owned capacity" would be essential in evaluating proposals which do include their new supply sources. If the PUC grants the extension, won't they be giving "de facto" assent to supply and capacity options without public hearings?

Additionally, I am concerned that allowing Liberty Utilities such an extension will result in another "crisis" as occurred with the proposed purchase of Concord Steam. The public now faces raising over \$37 Million in taxes to cover the conversion of State and School District buildings to fracked gas. Like the Concord Steam proposal, I have concerns that whatever their proposal for "new sources of supply and capacity" may be, they will be fast-tracked without sufficient discovery or public intervention. Perhaps Liberty is planning to invest in energy efficiency at levels that will create significant new sources of supply? Or perhaps they are planning to sign up for capacity on the Access Northeast Pipeline?

I respectfully request the Public Utilities Commission reject Liberty Utilities request for an extension in the filing of the LCIRP.

Sincerely,

Pat Martin