

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Docket No.: DG 15-289

*Liberty Utilities Corp. – Petition for Approval of a Gas Franchise in Lebanon and Hanover*

**CITY OF LEBANON’S OBJECTION TO**  
**LIBERTY UTILITIES’ MOTION TO STAY PROCEEDINGS**

*Now Comes* the City of Lebanon (the “City”), and objects to the Motion to Stay Proceedings filed by Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Liberty Utilities”). In support of this objection, the City states as follows:

1. The City is an intervenor in the above-captioned docket.
2. On August 12, 2016, Liberty Utilities filed a motion to stay all further proceedings and to take no further action in this matter because Liberty Utilities and Valley Green Natural Gas, LLC (“Valley Green”) asserted that they are engaged in discussions which may result in a proposal to resolve this docket and the docket addressing Valley Green’s request for the franchise to serve Hanover and Lebanon, Docket No. DG 15-155.
3. Liberty Utilities has not provided the City with any information regarding the nature of the resolution under discussion. Therefore, it is impossible to evaluate how, whether, and if the City’s interests will be affected by a stay of the current proceedings.
4. In order to preserve the due process and integrity of the proceedings that have taken place to date, the City respectfully suggests that Liberty Utilities’ pending petition should be granted or denied based solely on the merits of its petition *as presented* at the hearings; especially so given the extent of the proceedings that have already taken place and the relative imminence of a decision on the merits of the pending petition. Upon issuance of decisions in their respective dockets, Liberty Utilities and Valley Green are presumably free to further petition the PUC individually or jointly as they see fit relative to any new proposal they would like the PUC to consider.

5. In the alternative, the City seeks an order from the PUC requiring that Liberty Utilities sufficiently demonstrate that its discussions with Valley Green and any new proposal will not result in any material or meaningful change to the petition filed in the above-captioned docket, which representations the City will be permitted to comment on, before the PUC rules on the motion to stay.

6. Additionally in the alternative, the City seeks an order that, with respect to (i) any future filings made *jointly* by Liberty Utilities and Valley Green, and (ii) any additional filings made by either Liberty Utilities or Valley Green that result in material or meaningful changes to their pending petitions, would be treated as new applications to the Commission, given separate docket numbers, and be subject to the same procedural requirements that applied in the above-captioned docket.

7. For these reasons, the City objects to Liberty Utilities' motion to stay. A companion objection will be filed in Docket No. DG 15-155.

WHEREFORE, the City of Lebanon respectfully requests that the Commission:

A. Deny Liberty Utilities' motion to stay.

In the alternative:

B. Prior to rendering a decision on their motion, require that Liberty Utilities sufficiently demonstrate that its discussions with Valley Green and any new proposal will not result in any material or meaningful change to the petition filed in the above-captioned docket, which representations the City will be permitted to comment on prior to the PUC ruling on the motion to stay; and/or

C. Require that with respect to (i) any future filings made jointly by Liberty Utilities and Valley Green, and (ii) any additional filings by either Liberty Utilities or Valley Green that result in material or meaningful changes to their petitions, would be treated as new applications to the Commission, given separate docket numbers, and be subject to the same procedural requirements that applied in the above-captioned docket.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF LEBANON



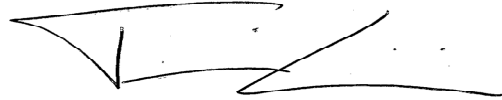
Date: August 12, 2016

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016, a copy of this objection has been forwarded by email to the persons listed on the Commission's service list for this docket.



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Tim Corwin