

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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August 1, 2018

Re: DG 17-152, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities
Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan

DG 17-198, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities
Petition to Approve Firm Supply and Transportation Agreements and the Granite
Bridge Project

Cancellation of Technical Session

To the Parties:

On July 27, 2018, Commission Staff filed a request to cancel the technical sessions scheduled for August 2, 2018, in the above proceedings until Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) provides responses to the data requests Staff propounded on July 9, 2018. Staff further requested that the technical session not be rescheduled any earlier than 10 days after those responses have been filed. In a letter filed July 27, Liberty objected to the cancellation of the August 2 technical session. Liberty argued that it would be unfair to other parties to lose a long-scheduled opportunity for a technical session. Liberty suggested, in the alternative, that a second technical session be held for those who could not attend the August 2 session. While Staff did not object to the Company's request for a second technical session, Staff suggested that a technical session without all parties present to participate might not be an optimal use of parties' time and resources, and might be of limited value to the proceeding overall. Staff emphasized the importance of having adequate time to thoroughly review all discovery responses in advance in order to have a productive technical session. Staff recommended that, if two technical sessions were held, the Commission should provide for either a recording or transcript of the technical sessions.

The Commission has determined that cancellation of the August 2 technical session is warranted and in the public interest. Based on Staff's letters, the pending data requests warrant responses and opportunity for review and discussion. Having one technical session following responses to Staff data requests will result in a more efficient and productive proceeding. In addition, a court reporter is not available to record the August 2 session, as Staff has requested.

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To ensure that the cancellation of the technical session will not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party, the Commission has approved Staff's recommendation that the session be rescheduled no earlier than 10 days after responses to the pending data requests are filed. In the event that responses cannot be filed in time for a technical session to be held prior to the August 28 start of Round 3 Data Requests, the Commission directs the parties to collaborate on further potential modifications to the approved procedural schedule to ensure adequate time and opportunity for all parties to conclude the discovery process prior to the filing of Staff/OCA/Intervenor testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra A. Howland" followed by a stylized flourish.

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Service Lists

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES- DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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Docket #: 17-152-1 Printed: August 01, 2018

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:
- DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
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Docket #: 17-198-1 Printed: August 01, 2018

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