

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONSUMER ADVOCATE
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August 16, 2022

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Docket No. DG 17-152
Liberty Utilities (Energy North Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty
Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan

To the Commission:

I am writing to let the Commission know, and by copy of this letter to let the other parties know, that the Office of the Consumer Advocate will not be presenting a witness at the hearing scheduled for August 18, 2022 concerning the Settlement Agreement pending in the above-referenced docket.

Although we asked the subject utility to place a member of the OCA staff on the Joint Witness List, circumstances require me to change course with respect to the upcoming hearing. Unlike other parties, we did not submit prefiled direct testimony in this proceeding and thus we are not in a position to respond to the quintessential settlement hearing question ("Your prefiled testimony says X, the settlement says Y, so how did you get from X to Y?"). As Consumer Advocate, I have been personally involved in this docket since its inception and I personally negotiated the settlement terms on behalf of the OCA. Although I cannot provide sworn testimony at hearing, I can certainly provide a full explanation of why we believe the Settlement Agreement merits Commission approval. To my knowledge, no facts are in dispute. In these circumstances, I do not believe the lack of an OCA witness will deprive the Commission of its opportunity to develop a record sufficient to justify Settlement approval.

Please feel free to contact me at 603.271.1174 if there are any questions or concerns about the foregoing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DKreis".

Donald M. Kreis
Consumer Advocate

Cc: Service List, via e-mail