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Via Electronic Mail Only

Daniel Goldner, Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429

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

Dear Chairman Goldner:

On behalf of Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp., d/b/a Liberty, I write in response to the Commission's March 16, 2022, procedural order that "invite[d] the parties to file summaries of their positions and any additional filings by June 1, 2022."

Attached is a Motion to Extend Deadline for Filing Liberty's Next Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan, which asks the Commission to extend the October 2, 2022, deadline for Liberty's next LCIRP until six months after the Commission issues an order resolving this docket. RSA 378:38-a authorizes the Commission to grant such an extension on a finding of "good cause," which the Company has provided in the motion.

As for a summary of Liberty's position in this docket, the Company offers the following.

This matter was ready for hearing at the time the Commission suspended the procedural schedule in December 2019. Liberty had filed the LCIRP and twice supplemented the plan with additional testimony in April and June 2019 to address concerns of the Commission and the parties. Commission Staff and other parties filed testimony in September 2019, and the Company filed rebuttal testimony in October 2019. At the time Liberty filed its rebuttal testimony, final hearings were scheduled for late November 2019.

Chairman Daniel Goldner
June 1, 2022

The Commission suspended the procedural schedule in December 2019 for good reason. It was later disclosed that Liberty had then begun negotiations with Tennessee Gas Pipeline (“TGP”) for a new capacity contract that, if approved, would significantly impact the LCIRP. Given that much of the litigation over the 2017 LCIRP focused on whether the Granite Bridge project or an upgrade to the Concord Lateral was the best choice to meet Liberty’s recognized capacity needs, the existence of a new capacity contract with TGP provided a previously unavailable third option that warranted careful review. That review was not complete until the Commission approved the new TGP contract in Order No. 26,551 (Nov. 12, 2021), denied CLF’s motion for rehearing on January 10, 2022, and the Supreme Court declined to accept CLF’s appeal on April 6, 2022. It was reasonable for the Commission not to have resumed this docket until the Commission completed its review of the new TGP contract, which was the basis for the 2019 suspension order.

Therefore, the summary of Liberty’s position that (1) all the evidence on the 2017 LCIRP has been filed, (2) Liberty has presented sufficient evidence to satisfy the requirements of RSA 378:38, and (3) it has only recently become the appropriate time for the Commission to issue an order on the merits.

A final note is a reminder that the five year period covered by the 2017 LCIRP has passed; the last year covered by the plan was the winter of 2021-2022. Thus, there is less to be gained from an order resolving the disputes that were contested in 2018 and 2019, and much to be gained from an order providing guidance on what should be included in Liberty’s next LCIRP and how Liberty should demonstrate compliance with the statute. Liberty will be prepared to present thoughts on those issues at the status conference.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Sheehan

Cc: Service List
enclosure