

February 26, 2018

Debra Howland
Executive Director and Secretary
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

RE: DG 17-198 Liberty Utilities Granite Bridge Project

Dear Ms. Howland,

Please consider this comment as a request for information regarding PUC 104 and PUC 201.07. And I ask that you please file this letter as a public comment.

Please also consider this request for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to deny the Liberty Utilities Motion for Protective Order regarding its Granite Bridge petition, and for unredacted copies of it be made immediately available to the public.

Liberty Utilities' aggressive effort to conceal information from the public is of immense concern. It is also extremely troubling that they are requesting NH's PUC to virtually become complicit in prioritizing Liberty Utilities' corporate wishes over the legitimate needs and rights of NH citizens and ratepayers to the point of asking our PUC to discount, ignore or break NH's right-to-know law, RSA-91-A-5.

They are, essentially, asking our PUC to overlook LU's clear and overt disregard for serving the public interest and their obvious disrespect for ratepayer's rights. Implicitly, they also assume that our PUC would be willing to ignore or reject their responsibility for government transparency.

Beyond that, obviously, LU deems some elements in their proposed plans too risky to reveal and likely to be so disturbing to the public that additional assessments and public hearings would be called for and necessary, hampering their construction time table or extinguishing their plans altogether. For that reason, alone, the public should be granted the right-to-know what LU wants to HIDE and should have the right to demand further project evaluations and the right to hold public hearings.

WHAT are they so afraid to reveal? Is it the millions in costs that ratepayers will be asked to shoulder? Is it the predictable environmental damage? Is it the stranded costs of the infrastructure, or the effects on atmospheric warming from the methane leaks? Or is it the conflicts created by the fact that NH has signed the "Under2Memorandum of Understanding", committing NH to reduce GHG emissions toward net-zero by 2050; or the requirements under R.S.A.378:37 to protect the environment, health and safety of citizens in NH's energy choices; or the 164 NH towns which passed warrant articles asking their town governments to work toward reducing GHG emissions; or the recent report from Governor Sununu's Millennials Advisory Council advising reductions in fossil fuel usage and switching to renewables?

For the reasons stated above and in light of the questions raised, I ask that the PUC deny the Liberty Utilities Motion for Protective Order regarding their Granite Bridge petition. And I also request that unredacted copies of that be made immediately available to the public.

Thank you for taking my comment.

Cc: Donald Kreis, Office of the Consumer Advocate

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