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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



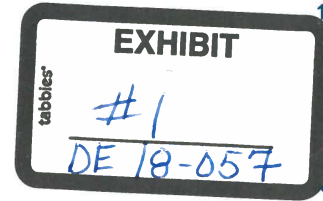
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

TDD Access: Relay NH  
1-800-735-2964

(603) 271-2431

FAX No. 271-3878

Website:  
www.puc.nh.gov



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February 28, 2020

Debra Howland, Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: **Docket No. DE 18-057; Electric Assistance Program  
Request for Approval to EAP Design Change,  
Settlement Agreement (SA) and Request for Enlargement of Time to File SA**

Dear Ms. Howland:

The hearing in this matter is scheduled for March 4, 2020. On behalf of Commission Staff (Staff), enclosed for filing in the above reference matter, please find an original and six copies of a Settlement Agreement, with an attached chart prepared by Liberty Utilities. All parties to this docket have signed the settlement agreement.

Pursuant to NH Administrative R. Puc 203.20 (e), settlement agreements are to be filed no less than five business days prior to the hearing except as provided in Puc 203.20(f). Puc 203.20(f) states that the commission shall accept late-filed settlements when such acceptance (1) promotes the orderly and efficient conduct of the proceeding and (2) will not impair the rights of any party to the proceeding.

Staff respectfully requests that the Commission make the requisite findings and accept this late filing. This settlement agreement will promote the orderly and efficient conduct of the proceeding because it will narrow the scope of the hearing to whether the proposed settlement agreement is just and reasonable and serves the public interest. Further, acceptance of this settlement agreement will not impair the rights of any party to the proceeding, because all parties are in agreement that settlement, as described, is appropriate.

The other parties to this docket, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy; Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities; Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.; New Hampshire Electric Cooperative; and the Office of the Consumer Advocate, assent to Staff's request that the Commission accept this late filed settlement agreement pursuant to Puc 203.20 (f).

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Mary E. Schwarzer  
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner

Encl.  
Cc: Service List