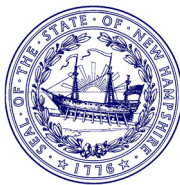


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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October 6, 2021

Via Electronic Mail Only

Dianne Martin, Chairwoman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429

Re: Docket No. DG 21-132, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas)
d/b/a Liberty-Keene Division, Winter 2021-2022 Cost of Gas
Department of Energy's proposed procedural schedule

Dear Chairwoman Martin:

I write to ask the Commission to approve an *abbreviated* procedural schedule in this expedited cost of gas docket. With the creation of the Department of Energy, the method of establishing a procedural schedule for these dockets seems to be in flux. (There has been no prehearing conference in this docket, as there was in Docket No. DG 21-130, although the present docket is also expedited.)

On the morning of October 5, 2021, the Department of Energy (Energy) asked the parties, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) d/b/a Liberty-Keene Division (Liberty-Keene or the Company) and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) to agree to a procedural schedule. In the afternoon of October 5, 2021, Liberty-Keene agreed to an October 8, 2021 morning technical session. Liberty stated answers to data requests could be provided by October 22, 2021, the last business day before the scheduled hearing, not October 20th as requested. In Energy's opinion, October 22nd is too late, although Energy would be amendable to October 21st by noon.

Should Energy wish to make those answers an exhibit at hearing, Energy would make an oral motion to waive the deadline for exhibits stated in the Public Utility Commission's hybrid hearing guidelines. (Energy moved its proposed data request filing date from October 15, 2021 to October 14, 2021 at Liberty-Keene's request.)

The OCA agrees with the procedural schedule requested by the Department of Energy. Liberty was sent a draft procedural schedule earlier this morning. Energy called Liberty's Keene's counsel at 3 pm, prior to filing, but did not reach him.

According, Energy asks the Public Utilities Commission to grant the following procedural schedule, including determining the date for Liberty-Keene to file data responses, a date upon which the parties have been unable to agree.

<u>Event:</u>	<u>Proposed Date:</u>
Technical Session	October 8, 2021 10 am to noon
Data Requests filed	October 14, 2021 4:30 pm.
Liberty- Keene Response to Data Requests	October 21, 2021 noon
Hearing (already scheduled)	Monday, October 25, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Pursuant to the March 17, 2020 secretarial letter, only an electronic version of this letter will be filed.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer

Mary. E. Schwarzer
Staff Attorney/ Hearings Examiner
Department of Energy

cc: Service List

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