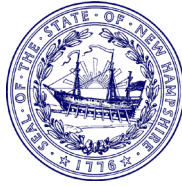


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

September 12, 2022

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: DE 22-019 Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, 2021 Annual Storm Fund Report, *DOE Recommendation and Supporting Technical Statement*

Dear Chairman Goldner:

The Department of Energy (DOE) has reviewed and analyzed the *Calendar Year 2021 Storm Fund Report* ("2021 Report") filed by Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty ("Liberty" or "the Company") on April 1, 2022 and the DOE Enforcement Division's *Final Audit Report* (dated September 9, 2022).

Enclosed please find DOE's recommendation and supporting technical statement (audit attached). The technical statement summarizes DOE's review, analysis, conclusions and recommendations with respect to Liberty's 2021 Report. DOE supports allowance of the audit adjusted amount identified in the technical statement of \$695,673 for 2021 storm related pre-staging costs as eligible for collection through the Company's Major Storm Fund account. See *DOE Technical Statement* at 3 and Attachment 1 (*Final Audit Report*) at 20.

The Company agrees with the adjustments identified in the *Final Audit Report*. See *DOE Technical Statement*, Attachment 1 at 21-23. Therefore, DOE further recommends that the Commission approve the audit adjusted amount identified above without a hearing and without any further process before the Commission. In that event, Docket No. DE 22-019 may be closed.

Please note, it is unusual that a *DOE Recommendation and Supporting Technical Statement* is issued one business day after the *Final Audit Report* itself. DOE extended itself to avoid seeking an enlargement of time in this docket; in addition, audit issues were minimal.

Consistent with current Commission policy, this letter and enclosures are being filed solely in electronic format. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Mary E. Schwarzer*

Mary E. Schwarzer
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner

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