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October 17, 2022

## 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. DE 22-035; Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Request for Step Increase

Dear Chairman Goldner:

In Order No. 26,661 (July 29, 2022), the Commission approved the Company's requested step adjustment, but concluded that "the two growth-related projects ... should be excluded." The Commission did not reduce the amount of the otherwise approved step increase, allowing the Company to replace the two growth-related projects to reach the requested step amount. The Commission limited the "replacement assets to individual investment amounts of \$100,000 or above and placed into service in calendar year 2021."

By letter dated September 1, 2022, the Company informed the Commission that, "[a]lthough the Company has a number of projects that went into service during 2021 that could serve as replacement projects, they do not meet the criteria set by the Commission for replacement projects." The Company thus "elected not to propose any replacement projects in this docket."

The Department of Energy filed a status report in which it recommended that the parties file an abbreviated procedural schedule for Liberty to request an appropriate rate decrease to reflect removal of the two grow-related projects. The Commission approved this approach in its October 7, 2022, procedural order. Liberty thus proposes the following schedule:

10/25/2022 LED Street Light Conversion Audit report to be filed by DOE<sup>1</sup>

11/4/2022 Liberty's revised step adjustment filing

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This audit report will allow the Commission to resolve another issue left open in Order No. 26,661:

<sup>&</sup>quot;Furthermore, we approve of the LED Street Light Conversion costs included in Liberty's step adjustment proposal subject to reconciliation, pending the outcome of the DOE Audit regarding same, which shall also be filed with the Commission when finalized for our consideration." Order No. 26,661 at 5.

11/7 – 11/18/2022 Tech session/discovery to be coordinated among parties

11/22 or 11/29/2022 Hearing

12/1/2022 Rate effective date

DOE concurs in Liberty's request to approve the above schedule. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Sheehan

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Cc: Service List