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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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May 25, 2023

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

Re: DG 22-045 Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, Winter 2022-2023 and Summer 2023 Cost of Gas, *DOE Comments on Liberty Response to Commission's Record Requests*

Dear Chairman Goldner:

The Commission granted the New Hampshire Department of Energy ("the Department" or "DOE")'s request to comment on Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty ("Liberty Gas" or "the Company") response to the Commission's Record Requests. See Procedural Order (May 16, 2023).

The Department has reviewed the Department's 2022 Summer Period Cost of Gas Adjustment Final Audit Report, issued on March 28, 2023, Company's Response No. 1 (filed May 16, 2023); Response 2 (filed May 17, 2023); Amended Response 2 (May 17, 2023) (*sic* May 19, 2023) as well as Liberty's attachments and Excel spreadsheets.

Based on the review, the Department notes the following:

- The Audit Report identified five issues, with a total under-collection of \$5,024,836;
- The Company's Response No. 2 (May 17, 2023), identifies a total under-collection of \$18,727,910;
- The Company's Response No. 2 (May 19, 2023), identifies a total under-collection of \$4,882,963;

In light of these significantly different figures, and the limited explanation provided by the Company, the Department is unable to provide an opinion at this time.

That said, the Department respectfully submits that the trigger filings are traditionally reviewed for prudence in the annual cost of gas docket. Accordingly, the Department reserves the right to analyze this material in the future, when additional time and a discovery process is available.

Consistent with the Commission's current practice, this letter is being filed in electronic form.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer

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