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September 21, 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—RDAF  
Day 2, *DOE's Request to Extend Permission for Consultant to Testify  
Remotely*

Dear Chairman Goldner:

On September 19, 2023, the Commission granted the relief requested by the New Hampshire Department of Energy and issued a procedural order rescheduling the second day of hearing in this docket to December 13, 2023. That order stated "One day has been allotted for the December 13, 2023 hearing which will be conducted in person in accordance with the previously issued hearing guidelines." *Procedural Order re: Pending Requests* (Sept. 19, 2023) at 1-2.

The New Hampshire Department of Energy ("DOE" or "the Department") has previously sought and received the Commission's permission for its consultant, Mark Thompson, to testify remotely in this proceeding. *See* DOE Letter (June 19, 2023); *Procedural Order Re: Requests for Report Participation and Attendance* (July 5, 2023) (granting DOE permission for Mark Thompson's remote participation for August 30, 2023 hearing).

The Department asks the Commission to extend its permission for remote participation to Day Two of this hearing, now scheduled for December 13, 2023. Permission should be granted for the same reasons it was granted previously. Those reasons are that Mark Thompson is based in Oregon and expects to be in Oregon on December 13, 2023. His remote participation will significantly reduce travel time and related expenses. If Mr. Thompson were to testify in person, he would need to travel by plane and stay overnight in New Hampshire for at least one night. Ultimately, the costs for his flight and hotel stay would be borne by ratepayers.

The Department's request is also consistent with the fifteen-day notice period required by the applicable Hearing Guidelines.

Accordingly, the Department respectfully requests the Commission's permission to have its consultant, Mark Thompson testify remotely on December 13, 2023. *See* DOE Letter (filed June 19, 2023); *Procedural Order re: Requests for Remote Participation and Attendance* (July 5, 2023) (granting permission for August 30, 2023).

Consistent with the Commission's current practice, this letter is being filed solely in electronic form.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer*

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