

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 22-045

LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP. d/b/a LIBERTY

Winter 2022-2023 and Summer 2023 Cost of Gas

Procedural Order Re: Request to Postpone Hearing and for Other Relief

On November 21, 2023, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed a request to postpone the December 13, 2023 hearing to the week of February 5, 2024, contingent upon Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) providing responses to the DOE's discovery requests contained in questions 3 and 4 on or before December 1, 2023. The DOE also requested that: the December 13 date be used for a technical session; and it be permitted to file a supplemental technical statement by January 19, 2024.


The DOE represented that the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) did not assent to its request. The DOE stated that Liberty assented only if a hearing were held in early to mid-January 2024, and the Commission issued an order by February 1, 2024. The DOE maintained that, due to the delay in obtaining the requested discovery from Liberty, it was not possible for the DOE to have a hearing in January 2024.

On December 1, the DOE filed a renewed request for expedited review, with a request that the Commission issue an order by noon on December 4, given impending deadlines in other gas dockets. Despite the DOE's request for expedited review, it was not possible for the Commission to issue a ruling prior to December 4, 2023, because the DOE's request to postpone the hearing was contingent upon Liberty providing the requested discovery by December 1, and the OCA and Liberty had 10 days to file their responses under New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Puc 203.07(e).

As of today's date, neither the OCA nor Liberty filed a response to the DOE's request. Further, the DOE did not notify the Commission that it received the requested discovery responses from Liberty. After reviewing the DOE's November 21 and December 1 filings, the Commission GRANTS the DOE's request to postpone the December 13, 2023 hearing. In addition, it GRANTS the DOE's request for a technical session on December 13, 2023, which will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., as well as the DOE's request to file a supplemental technical statement on or before January 19, 2024.

The parties shall have leave to notify the Commission of the status of discovery and any assented-to dates for the rescheduled hearing on or before December 20, 2023. After this date, the Commission will issue a procedural order rescheduling the December 13 hearing.

So ordered, this fourth day of December, 2023.


Daniel C. Goldner
Presiding Officer
Chairman

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-045

Printed: 12/4/2023

Email Addresses

ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov
Ashrafal.Alam@energy.nh.gov
Faisal.DeenArif@energy.nh.gov
Sean.M.Courtois@energy.nh.gov
Tyler.Culbertson@libertyutilities.com
Energy-Litigation@energy.nh.gov
paul.b.dexter@energy.nh.gov
thomas.c.frantz@energy.nh.gov
deborah.gilbertson@libertyutilities.com
maureen.karpf@libertyutilities.com
James.King@libertyutilities.com
donald.m.kreis@oca.nh.gov
Alyssa.Maston@libertyutilities.com
Erica.Menard@libertyutilities.com
karen.j.moran@energy.nh.gov
amanda.o.noonan@energy.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
hgp@PeachandAssociatesLLC.onmicrosoft.com
Luke.Sanborn@libertyutilities.com
mary.e.schwarzer@energy.nh.gov
michael.sheehan@libertyutilities.com
karen.sinville@libertyutilities.com
mark@forecon.com
Joshua.Tilbury@libertyutilities.com
Adam.Yusuf@Libertyutilities.com