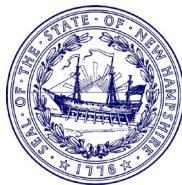


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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
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July 19, 2023

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

Re: DE 23-003 Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, Proposed Purchase of Receivables Program, *Parties' Status Report to the Commission and Request for Limited Stay with Expedited Review by July 25, 2023*, submitted by the NH Department of Energy

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Now comes the New Hampshire Department of Energy ("the Department") and, pursuant to the approved procedural schedule, submits this *Status Report* on behalf of all the parties to this docket, i.e., itself, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty ("Liberty"); NRG Retail Companies ("NRG");¹ and Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire ("CPCNH") (hereinafter "the Parties" unless otherwise stated). See Commission's Procedural Order (April 3, 2023).

The Parties have held several technical sessions, and Liberty has responded to multiple data requests from the Department and from NRG. The Parties have reached agreement on a number of issues although Liberty's recent updated cost estimate for software changes needed to implement the Company's proposed purchase of receivable ("POR") program, in excess of two million dollars, would result in an estimated discount percentage rate ("DPR") of 5% and requires further consideration. See Department's Technical Statement (filed June 23, 2023). NRG and CPCNH note that Liberty had not yet made them aware of Liberty's higher cost when their comments/testimony were filed on June 23, 2023. At the same time, the Department, NRG, and CPCNH are engaged in dockets with other utilities that also address those other utilities' purchase of receivables ("POR") programs. See Docket No. DE 23-002, Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. ("Unitil"); Docket No. DE 23-004 Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource").

Given the many similarities among Dockets No. DE 23-002, DE 23-004, and this docket, Docket No. DE 23-003, the Parties, Unitil, and Eversource, held a joint discussion on July 18th to discuss common issues and ideally achieve consistency/uniformity among the three utilities' proposed POR programs, where possible. Parties to all three dockets expect to hold a second joint discussion next week. The Parties to this docket therefore respectfully request a short stay in this proceeding to

¹ The NRG Retail Companies are: Direct Energy Services, LLC; Direct Energy Business, LLC; Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC; Reliant Energy Northeast LLC; and XOOM Energy New Hampshire, LLC.

allow for the larger discussion, and potentially additional time to resolve matters specific to this docket. The Parties' *Joint Motion to Stay and Request for Expedited Review by July 25, 2023* is enclosed with this *Status Report*.

Because the outcome in this docket remains unclear, the Parties propose that both the "Settlement Hearing Date," 9 a.m. on August 22, 2023 and the "Rebuttal Hearing Date," 9 a.m. on September 19, 2023, continue to be retained for this docket. Following the second joint discussion, to include the three utilities, CPCNH, NRG, and the Department, the Parties to this docket will file a new proposed procedural schedule to identify procedural dates that may be necessary including but not limited to a settlement filing date.

The Department is filing this *Status Report* and *Joint Motion to Stay And Request for Expedited Review by July 25, 2023* on behalf of all the parties to this docket, by and through counsel, Michael Sheehan (Liberty), Joey Lee Miranda (NRG), and Clifton Below (CPCNH). This request is consistent with the requirements of Admin Rule Puc 203.07.

The Parties respectfully request that the Commission consider this motion to stay and issue a decision by Tuesday, July 25, 2023. A Commission order by that date will afford the Parties certainty, and time to confer and propose amendments to the currently approved procedural schedule in advance of current deadlines, should that be necessary. The Parties recognize the tight timeframe associated with this request and appreciate the Commission's consideration.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer

Mary E. Schwarzer
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner
Department of Energy

cc: Service List

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