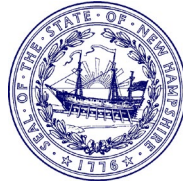


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

March 29, 2023

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

Re: DG 23-034 Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty-Keene  
Division, Summer 2023 Cost of Gas, *DOE Assented-to Proposed Procedural  
Schedule* (but for one date)

Dear Chairman Goldner:

The Department of Energy ("Department" or "DOE") is writing to propose the following procedural schedule for the remainder of this docket, in light of the Commission's *Commencement of Adjudicative Proceeding and Notice of Prehearing Conference* (March 23, 2023). By and through counsel, Liberty-Keene assents to this proposed schedule, with the exception of the DOE DR date, which Liberty approved as "April 3" and DOE prefers as "Tuesday, April 4" in the event that Liberty makes changes to the filing on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Liberty's view on this change was unknown when this letter was filed).

| <u>Event</u>                | <u>Date</u>                              |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Prehearing conference (PHC) | Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:00 a.m.       |
| Technical Session #1        | Thursday, March 30, 2023 (following PHC) |

As of April 3, 2023, absent issues outlined in the DOE Liberty-Keene's Joint Report on L DAC and COG (December 27, 2021)<sup>1</sup>, no changes, with any changes annotated and accompanied by a narrative description of changes made.

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| DOE DRs to Liberty               | Tuesday, April 4, 2023 COB                              |
| Liberty Responses to DRs         | Wednesday April 12, 2023 COB                            |
| Technical Session #2             | Thursday April 13, 2023 1pm to 4:00 pm                  |
| Parties to File Hearing Exhibits | Friday April 14, 2023 (exception to Hearing Guidelines) |
| Hearing                          | Tuesday, April 18, 2023                                 |

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<sup>1</sup> The Joint Report (December 27, 2021) is available at this link [21-132\\_2021-12-27\\_NHDOE\\_JT-REPORT-LDAC-COG-PROCEEDINGS.PDF](https://www.energy.nh.gov/21-132_2021-12-27_NHDOE_JT-REPORT-LDAC-COG-PROCEEDINGS.PDF)

The Department requests this schedule due to limited analytical time available to the Regulatory and Legal Division, which has been reduced by at least 2 weeks. The Department respectfully notes that Liberty-Keene filed its Summer 2023 cost of gas (COG) well past the March 15, 2023 dates agreed upon, *see* Joint Report, when it made a March 20, 2022 filing. While the DOE understands the Commission's wish for a mid-April hearing, this change also eliminates more than a week of DOE discovery time, given that Liberty -Keene Summer hearings used to be held in the last week of April.

Pursuant to the Joint Report, Liberty-Keene was supposed to file a proposed procedural schedule with the Commission on March 15, 2023. Instead, Liberty-Keene sent DOE a proposed schedule fewer than 3 hours before it made an initial filing dated March 17, 2023. Liberty's proposed schedule was inconsistent with the Joint Report framework the parties had agreed upon. Nonetheless, DOE sent a counterproposal within two hours. Liberty did not respond or discuss a schedule further before it filed the packet dated March 20, 2023 (filed into this docket, replacing the filing dated March 17, 2023).

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

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ *Mary E. Schwarzer*

Mary.E. Schwarzer

Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner

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