

**KEEGAN WERLIN LLP**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
99 HIGH STREET, SUITE 2900  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02110  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(617) 951-1400

TELECOPIER:  
(617) 951-1354

November 19, 2023

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: Docket No. DE 23-039  
Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty  
Request for Change in Distribution Rates  
Response to Department of Energy Proposal to Revise Procedural Schedule**

Dear Chairman Goldner:

On November 14, 2023 the New Hampshire Department of Energy (“DOE”) filed a letter proposing to revise the procedural schedule established for Docket DE 23-039. In its letter, DOE states that this revised schedule is necessary to provide DOE (and other parties) with sufficient time to review an update filing that Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (the “Company”) has agreed to provide by December 1. While this update filing is not required pursuant to the procedural schedule, the Company has agreed to provide the update filing to memorialize certain adjustments agreed to during the course of this proceeding.

DOE circulated its proposal to revise the procedural schedule to parties in advance of its November 14<sup>th</sup> request. In an effort to address DOE’s concern that there was insufficient time to review the update filing and prepare testimony by December 13, 2023 if the update filing was not provided until December 1, 2023, the Company provided a counterproposal intended to preserve the existing procedural schedule. Specifically, the Company offered to submit its update filing on November 27, 2023. Submitting the update filing on November 27, 2023 instead of December 1, 2023 would provide an additional four (4) business days for parties to review (for a total of 12 business days between the update filing and the testimony deadline). This is substantially similar to the DOE proposal to extend the deadline for testimony to December 21, 2023 (there are 14 business days between December 1 and December 21, 2023). The Company also reiterated that the update filing will memorialize the updates to the revenue requirement that have already been agreed to through the discovery process (i.e., the parties already have the information that will be presented in the update filing).

While the Company is sympathetic to scheduling concerns, if the schedule is revised as proposed by DOE there will be only three (3) business days between the final settlement conference (January 31, 2024) and the target date for filing of a settlement agreement (February 5, 2024). Under the existing schedule, there are seven (7) business days. This is a significant reduction of time that could lead to the need for further extension requests or delays. The proposal to revise the schedule also includes settlement conferences that will extend beyond the prehearing

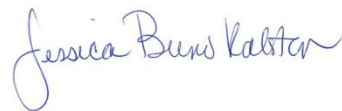
Letter to Chairman Goldner  
DE 23-039  
November 19, 2023  
Page 2 of 2

conference scheduled for January 30, 2024 (the existing schedule concludes settlement conferences prior to the prehearing conference). If settlement discussions have not concluded prior to the January 30th prehearing conference, the efficacy of the prehearing conference could be undermined.

For the foregoing reasons, the Company respectfully requests that the existing procedural schedule be maintained. If the existing procedural schedule is maintained, the Company will submit its updated revenue requirement filing on November 27, 2023 as previously communicated to DOE and other parties. Submitting the updated revenue requirement on November 27, 2023 directly addresses DOE's stated concern regarding timing while allowing the previously assented to procedural schedule to remain in place.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jessica Buno Ralston

cc: Service List, Docket DE 23-039