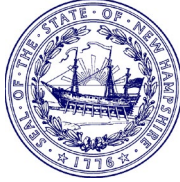


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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

April 3, 2024

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

Re: DE 23-063 Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy,
Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty and Until Energy Systems,
Inc. – DOE Recommendation Regarding Next Steps

Dear Chairman Goldner:

On December 7, 2023, Eversource, on behalf of the parties to this docket, submitted a letter in the above captioned docket explaining that the parties had made progress towards a common position on all open issues and were in the process of working on a joint party motion to reach a resolution of this matter for submission to the Commission for consideration and approval. The parties requested that the procedural schedule be temporarily suspended and indicated that they would notify the Commission of the need to resume the procedural schedule and provide new dates for the continuance of the docket in the event that the parties could not arrive at a common resolution. The Commission subsequently issued a Procedural Order on December 12, 2023, and again on February 27, 2024, granting the request for temporary suspensions of the procedural schedule to allow the parties to continue their discussions, because they were making progress toward a common position on pending issues. On March 22, 2024, the utilities filed their *Joint Utility Motion for a Prehearing Conference and Supplemental Order of Notice*. Subsequently, on March 28, 2024, the Community Power Coalition (CPCNH or the Coalition) and the Conservation Law Foundation filed their *Motion for a Supplemental Order of Notice, Testimony, and Pre-Hearing Conference, and to Grant Additional Temporary Waivers to Eversource, Unutil, and Liberty Utilities* ("CPCNH-CLF Motion").

In parallel with this proceeding, and based on feedback from relevant stakeholders, on December 5, 2023 the Department announced that the EDI-EBT Working Group would convene in early 2024. Subsequently, there have been several meetings of the Working Group focused on enabling the provision of data necessary to

accommodate dual-billing for net metered and time of use customers on competitive supply, including those customers in municipalities with community power aggregations.

After attending several meetings related to the potential resolution of this docket over the course of the fall and winter, convening related meetings of the EDI-EBT Working Group, and upon review of the two recently filed motions, the Department recommends that the Commission issue a supplemental order of notice in Docket No. 23-063 to examine a final proposal from CPCNH with its requirements for dual-billing. Once that proposal is submitted, the Department anticipates the utilities would be able to then provide timing and cost estimates to enable dual-billing for net metered and time of use customers. Given the numerous meetings and discussions since the utilities first submitted the bill-ready billing proposal, the Department expects the utilities may want to review and further refine the bill-ready billing proposal as well. At that point in time, the Commission, with Department input, may appropriately compare the utilities' previously submitted bill-ready billing proposal, or a refined version thereof, and the newly formulated dual-billing proposal to determine the most suitable path forward.

Regarding the load settlement changes presented in the CPCNH-CLF Motion, the Department recommends that the Commission direct CPCNH to submit a separate petition detailing these requests and investigate this matter in a separate docket. The Department believes this issue to be independent of a decision relative to bill-ready or dual-billing. Given the complexity of the issue, the Department suggests that changes to wholesale load settlement would be better addressed in its own proceeding. The Department is also currently investigating what load-settlement changes may be accomplished by the Commission outside of the ISO-NE process and would welcome input from all parties on this issue in the separate docket. Similarly, given the potential technical detail required for a review of load settlement practices, the Department is reviewing whether outside consulting services would be required for any such docket. For these reasons, and as it was the Department's understanding that the Coalition planned to address these questions in a separate petition, the Department believes requiring CPCNH to detail their requested changes to the load settlement process in a separate docket would be most appropriate.

Finally, regarding the EDI-EBT Working Group, the Department wants to inform the Commission that the Department has currently suspended the work of that group, pending a decision in this docket from the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Matthew C. Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being more prominent.

Matthew C. Young
Hearings Examiner/Staff Attorney

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A A A

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 23-063

Printed: 4/3/2024

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