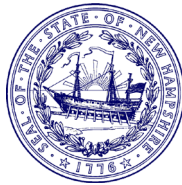


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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

October 23, 2024

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

Re: DG 24-106, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, Winter 2024-2025 and Summer 2025 Cost of Gas, **DOE proposes provisional rates with a December Hearing regarding Liberty’s late discovered \$ 6 million error (without objection)**

Dear Chairman Goldner:

The hearing in this docket is scheduled for tomorrow, October 24, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. On October 18, 2024, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, (“Liberty” or “the Company”) notified the Commission and the New Hampshire Department of Energy (“DOE” or “Department”) that it discovered a \$6 million error. *See Liberty’s Second Updated Winter 2024-2025 and Summer 2025 Cost of Gas Filing* (Oct 18, 2024). This Company notice was provided approximately four business days before hearing.

The Department has not had sufficient time to investigate the error, or the systemic issues that caused it, including why the rate the Company initially proposed for the Winter Period is allegedly too high by approximately 7 cents per therm. *Compare id. with Liberty Winter 2024-2025 and Summer 2025 Cost of Gas Filing* (September 3, 2024). Accordingly, tomorrow at hearing the Department will propose that Liberty’s rates as filed on October 18, 2024 be *provisionally* accepted and remain open to investigation and formal discovery with a December hearing. The Department will ask the Commission to direct that rate payers not be harmed as a result of the Company’s error.

The Department anticipates that Liberty might wish for 2024-2025 rates<sup>1</sup> to be final before the Winter Period has largely concluded and therefore proposes a mid or late December hearing on final rates. However, given the substantial error the Company identified the week of hearing, for the second year in a row, the Department objects to making rates at issue “final subject to reconciliation” – a much more narrow frame of reference as it includes an initial finding that the rates are just and reasonable.

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<sup>1</sup> Liberty asserts that the \$6 million error only impacts the Winter Period. The Department has not had sufficient time to investigate and therefore cannot concur at this time.

Liberty and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) do not object to the relief requested.

The Department is making this informational filing to minimize any surprise to the Commission at hearing and to make as efficient use of the scheduled three hours as possible.

Consistent with the Commission's current practices, this letter is being filed only in electronic form. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer

Mary E. Schwarzer, Esq.  
Hearings Examiner

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