

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



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April 3, 2013

Sarah B. Knowlton  
Assistant General Counsel  
Liberty Utilities  
11 Northeastern Boulevard  
Salem, NH 03079

Re: DE 13-039, Granite State Electric Company  
Petition for Continuation of Reliability Enhancement Plan/Vegetation  
Management Plan

Dear Ms. Knowlton:

On January 31, 2013, Granite State Electric Company d/b/a Liberty Utilities ("Granite State" or "Liberty") filed a Verified Petition for Continuation of Reliability Enhancement Plan/Vegetation Management Plan. As described in the petition, Liberty had an existing Reliability Enhancement Plan and a Vegetation Management Plan (collectively, "REP/VMP Plan") that both originated in Docket DG 06-107. According to Liberty, in addition to tree trimming activities, the REP/VMP Plan included certain capital projects and operations and maintenance (O&M) activities specifically targeted at improving the reliability of Liberty's electric distribution system. Further, the purpose of the REP/VMP Plan was to bring Granite State's reliability performance back to performance levels that existed prior to 2005. The REP/VMP Plan had a five-year term that was scheduled to end on March 31, 2013.

On March 13, 2013, Commission Staff filed a recommendation supporting extension of the REP/VMP Plan through December 31, 2013. As part of its recommendation, Staff stated that it considered "Liberty's petition to be a straightforward request to extend the REP/VMP Plan and related rate reconciliation and adjustment mechanisms beyond the current scheduled termination date with further consideration of the future of the REP/VMP Plan to take place in the context of the soon-to-be-filed distribution rate case." That rate case was subsequently filed at the Commission on March 29, 2013 and assigned Docket No. DE 13-063. In addition, Staff noted the positive impact the REP/VMP Plan has had on Granite State's distribution system reliability and stated its view that the request for extension of the REP/VMP Plan "as a reasonable bridge to further detailed review of the programs in Liberty's distribution rate case rather than simply letting the REP/VMP Plan terminate."

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The Commission has reviewed the petition and Staff's recommendation and has determined to grant the requested extension of the REP/VMP plan through December 31, 2013. In accordance with that approval, Liberty is required to file compliance tariff pages within 14 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debra A. Howland".

Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

cc: Docket File  
Service List (Electronically)

**SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED**

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Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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Docket #: 13-039-1      Printed: April 03, 2013

**FILING INSTRUCTIONS:**

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:  
DEBRA A HOWLAND  
EXEC DIRECTOR  
NHPUC  
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10  
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.