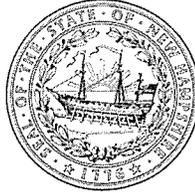


CHAIRMAN
Martin P. Honigberg

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Robert R. Scott
Kathryn M. Bailey

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Debra A. Howland

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
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Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

TDD Access: Relay NH
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NHPUC 16NOV15PM2:56

November 16, 2015

Ms. Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: DE 14-216 Liberty Utilities (Energy North Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a/ Liberty Utilities, 2015-2016
Core NH Electric and Gas Energy Efficiency Programs Staff's Recommendation on Request to
Transfer Funds**

Dear Ms. Howland:

On November 4, 2015, Liberty Utilities (Energy North Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a/ Liberty Utilities ("Liberty" or "the Company") requested the ability to transfer funds within the Residential and Commercial & Industrial sectors of its Core gas energy efficiency programs.

Residential Sector Transfers:

Liberty requests permission to transfer funds from its Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program to its ENERGY STAR® Homes and ENERGY STAR® Products program. The transfer to the ENERGY STAR® Homes program is \$14,564 and represents a transfer of more than 20 percent of the approved budget; therefore, the Company is filing the budget transfer request with the Commission in accordance with Section IV.C of the 2015-2016 New Hampshire Statewide Core Energy Efficiency Plan approved by the Commission in its Order No. 25,747.¹

The Company asserts that due to the struggling housing market and the adoption of ENERGY STAR® Homes version 3.0 standard, the Company originally budgeted less money relative to historical levels for the 2015 program. However, the Company has experienced stronger demand for the program during the year than expected. Also, the Company asserts that the transfer will not unduly burden the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® because several multifamily and single family weatherization projects have been deferred to 2016.

¹ Budget transfers to or from individual programs greater than 20 percent of the individual program's budget shall be filed with the Commission. The Commission's Staff and interested parties may file any comments with the Commission within two weeks of the filing. If no action has been taken by the Commission's staff and interested parties, the budget transfer request shall be deemed approved unless the Commission notifies the company of the need for a more in-depth review within thirty (30) days of the filing.

The transfer to the ENERGY STAR® Products program is \$72,000 and represents a transfer of less than 20 percent of the approved budget; therefore, it can be made without consultation and without Commission approval. However, notice to the Commission's Staff and interested parties is required.²

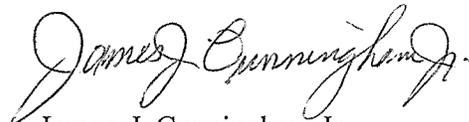
Commercial & Industrial Transfers:

Liberty is requesting to transfer \$149,000 in funds from its Large Business Energy Solutions program to its Small Business Energy Solutions program. The amount of the transfer is less than 20 percent of the approved budget; therefore, it can be made without consultation and without Commission approval. However, notice to the Commission's Staff and interested parties is required.

Recommendation:

With respect to Liberty's request to transfer \$14,564 in funds that represents more than 20 percent of the approved budget, Staff supports the transfer. Absent any comments to the contrary by any interested party within two weeks of the filing, and absent Commission notification within 20 days of the need to conduct an in-depth review, Staff believes the transfer will be deemed approved by Section IV.C.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James J. Cunningham Jr.".

James. J. Cunningham Jr.
Utility Analyst IV

cc. Service List

² *Id.*

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

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 #: 14-216-1 Printed: November 16, 2015

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
EXECUTIVE 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.

tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov

woodsca@nhec.com