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October 26, 2020

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Re: DE 17-136, Electric and Gas Utilities
2018-2020 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan
Approving Staff Recommendation Dated October 21, 2020

To the Parties:

On August 6, 2020, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty or the Company) filed a letter requesting the Commission's authorization to transfer \$500,000 in 2019 Carryover Funds to Liberty's Electric Energy Efficiency On-Bill Financing program (OBF program). Commission Staff (Staff) filed its recommendation regarding Liberty's request on October 21, 2020.

Liberty stated that transferring funds to its OBF program would expand the program's offerings for residential, commercial, and industrial customers for the remainder of 2020. Based on current customer requests, Liberty estimated that the OBF program would have a balance of negative \$410,000 by the end of the third quarter. It noted that the transfer of \$500,000 would raise the total amount of the Company's OBF program to \$953,000. According to Liberty, without the transfer, the Company would not be able to respond to the current level of customer requests for energy efficiency improvements, as such requests have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In its October 21, 2020 recommendation, Staff opined that Liberty's request to use \$500,000 in 2019 Carryover Funds for a specific purpose was a program change, which required the Commission's approval. It stated that Liberty's proposed transfer of \$500,000 to the OBF program was reasonable, because otherwise these funds would not be used, but instead would be rolled into the next triennial plan as an over-collection. Staff recommended that the Commission approve Liberty's proposed transfer of \$500,000 in 2019 Carryover Funds to the OBF program, so that the transferred funds could be used to help the Company's customers across all rate classes save energy by making energy efficiency improvements.

The Commission has reviewed Liberty's August 6, 2020 filing and Staff's October 21, 2020 recommendation. Based on Staff's recommendation, the Commission approves Liberty's transfer of \$500,000 from its 2019 Carryover Funds to its OBF program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra A. Howland".

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Service List (Electronically)
Docket File

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 17-136

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