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January 19, 2021  
Via Electronic Mail

Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Dear Ms. Howland:

**Re: DE 17-136; Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. and Liberty Utilities  
(EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. both d/b/a Liberty  
Program Budget Notification**

Section 4.3, Bates 35, of the 2018–2020 NH Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan approved by the Commission in its Order No. 26,095 dated January 2, 2018, in Docket DE 17-136 states: "The NH Utilities shall provide notification to the Commission if an individual program's actual expenditures are forecasted to exceed 120 percent of the program's budget."

On behalf of Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty ("Granite State"), I am writing to inform the Commission that within the Residential sector, Granite State expects spending for the ENERGY STAR Products program in 2020 will be \$540,353, or 147%, of the original budget, due to several successful online product promotions for small appliances and lighting that resulted in strong customer demand. To cover the increase in spending for the ENERGY STAR Products program, Granite State plans to utilize \$162,987, or 45%, from the ENERGY STAR Homes program due to the deferral of in-progress projects now forecasted to be completed in 2021, and \$14,500, or 12%, from the Home Energy Reports program due to lower than anticipated spending. When viewed in total, Granite State anticipates final spending for the Residential sector in 2020 to be at 91% of the original approved budget.

In addition, within the Commercial & Industrial sector, Granite State expects spending for the Small Business Energy Solutions program will be at \$1,653,529, or 137%, of the original budget, due to our use of enhanced incentives to offset the negative impacts of COVID-19 on businesses' cash flows. To cover the increase in spending for the Small Business Energy Solutions program, Granite State plans to utilize \$376,231, or 20%, from the Large Business Energy Solutions program due to a large number of deferrals and cancellations of projects within this customer segment, and \$40,016, or 55%, of the C&I Education program budget, and \$28,410, or



45%, from the ISO-NE FCM program expense budget due to lower than anticipated costs. When viewed in total, Granite State anticipates final spending for the Commercial & Industrial sector in 2020 to be at 100% of the original approved budget.

On behalf of Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“EnergyNorth”), I am writing to inform the Commission that within the Residential sector, EnergyNorth expects spending for the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program in 2020 will be \$1,142,905, or 123%, of the original budget, due to strong demand for residential weatherization services. To cover the increase in spending for the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program, EnergyNorth plans to utilize \$177,600, or 20%, from the ENERGY STAR Homes program due to the deferral of in-progress projects now forecasted to be completed in 2021, and the remaining balance will be made up from an overspend at the Residential sector level in the amount of \$32,143. When viewed in total, EnergyNorth anticipates final spending for the Residential sector in 2020 to be at 102% of the original approved budget.

For reference, the following table depicts the original approved budget amounts for each of the programs referenced in 2020 and the anticipated actual spending for the year.

Table 1. <b>Budget Notification</b>				
<b>Program</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Anticipated 2020 Actual Spend</b>	<b>Anticipated Spending as % of Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Granite State Electric</b>				
ENERGY STAR Products	\$367,436	\$540,353	147%	\$172,917
ENERGY STAR Homes	\$359,195	\$176,929	49%	(\$182,266)
Home Energy Reports	\$121,300	\$105,559	87%	(\$15,741)
Large Business Energy Solutions	\$1,898,824	\$1,522,593	80%	(\$376,231)
Small Business Energy Solutions	\$1,208,872	\$1,653,529	137%	\$444,657
C&I Education (Electric)	\$72,756	\$32,740	45%	(\$40,016)
ISO NE FCM	\$63,134	\$34,724	55%	(\$28,410)
<b>EnergyNorth Natural Gas</b>				
Home Performance with ENERGY STAR	\$933,162	\$1,142,905	123%	\$209,743
ENERGY STAR Homes	\$874,689	\$697,089	80%	(\$177,600)



Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Mullen

Cc: Service List