

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-004

LIBERTY UTILITIES (GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC) CORP. d/b/a LIBERTY

2021 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan

Procedural Order Re: Assented-to Motion to Amend Procedural Schedule

On February 18, 2022, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) filed a motion to amend the procedural schedule approved by procedural order dated October 15, 2021, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 202.04(a). Specifically, Liberty requested an open-ended suspension of the deadline the same day, February 18, 2022, for filing its Non-Wires Solution (NWS) proposal in this proceeding. Liberty represented that it needed additional time for “reassessing its NWS proposal with respect to planning criteria, reliability, and how this project compares to traditional options in light of changing market dynamics.” Liberty stated that the Office of the Consumer Advocate and the New Hampshire Department of Energy did not object to its request, and that it would work with the parties to determine an appropriate NWS proposal deadline.

As noted, the February 18, 2022 deadline that Liberty seeks to extend was set by a procedural order issued over four months ago. That procedural order also set forth numerous other deadlines, including a final discovery period beginning March 24, 2022 with Set #7 data requests to Liberty regarding its 2021 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan; responses to those data requests due on April 7, 2022; and party testimony due on May 9, 2022 in advance of technical sessions and settlement discussions in early June, prior to a hearing in July. Notably absent from Liberty’s motion is any consideration of how the open-ended extension it seeks would, if granted, impact the numerous other procedural aspects of this docket that must proceed in parallel. Also absent is any

explanation as to why Liberty made this request on the date that its NWS proposal was due, and why it evidently only became apparent to Liberty that it needed to “reassess its NWS proposal” on the very date it was ordered to submit that proposal to the Commission.

Because Liberty has already passed its NWS proposal deadline, the Commission has no choice but to set a new deadline. Liberty’s assented-to motion to amend the procedural schedule is GRANTED to the limited extent that Liberty shall, by February 28, 2022, meet and confer with the other parties to this docket and file with the Commission a new proposed submission deadline for its NWS proposal. Absent a showing of good cause, Liberty should not expect to have an NWS proposal deadline of later than March 16, 2022 approved by the Commission.

So ordered, this twenty-fourth day of February, 2022.



Daniel C. Goldner
Presiding Officer
Chairman

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-004

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