

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 22-035

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

Request for Step Adjustment

Procedural Order Re: November 22, 2022 Hearing


A hearing is scheduled in this docket on November 22, 2022. See Procedural Order dated October 18, 2022. On November 4, 2022, following the filing of the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) Audit Division's audit report, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) submitted a filing in which it appears to seek the re-litigation of the prior exclusion of two Salem area projects. Liberty, however, agreed to the following exclusions by the Audit Division: (1) Lebanon Pole Pile (\$345,099); (2) LED Street Light Conversion (\$342,937); and (3) Transportation (\$203,823); but disagreed with any additional exclusions.

On November 16, 2022, the DOE filed a response to Liberty's November 4 filing, which included several recommendations. The DOE recommended that the Commission accept the foregoing three exclusions to which Liberty agrees. It argued that Liberty should not be permitted to re-litigate the exclusion of the two Salem area projects and recommended that the Commission order Liberty "to make a revised step adjustment filing that provides a rate reduction that excludes the two Salem Area projects and the three audit items listed above, effective as of August 1, 2022 consistent with Order No. 26,661, with a provision for refunding previously collected amounts for these two projects." Finally, the DOE recommended that the Commission reschedule the November 22, 2022 hearing to allow it to review Liberty's revised filing. No response to the DOE's November 16 filing has been received from Liberty as of today's date.

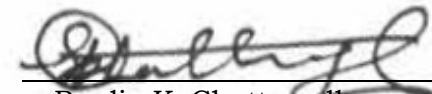
Given the limited time remaining before November 22, 2022, the Commission waives the 10-day objection period under Puc 203.07(e). See N.H. Admin. R., Puc 201.05. The Commission accepts the foregoing three exclusions, which are not contested by Liberty. Further, it orders Liberty to submit, on or before Monday, December 12, 2022, a revised step adjustment filing providing for a rate reduction that excludes these three audit items and the two Salem area projects, effective as of August 1, 2022, with a provision for refunding any previously collected amounts for these two projects. The DOE shall file its response to Liberty's revised filing no later than January 9, 2023.

The November 22, 2022 hearing is rescheduled to Tuesday, February 7, 2023, starting at 9:00 a.m. Three hours are allotted for this hearing, which will be conducted in person, in accordance with the hearing guidelines issued on June 2, 2022. If additional time will be required, the parties are requested to notify the Commission within ten days from the date of this order.

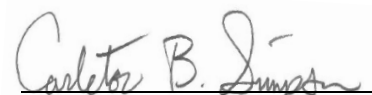
So ordered, this eighteenth day of November, 2022.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-035

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