

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 23-067

LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP. d/b/a LIBERTY

Request for Change in Distribution Rates

Procedural Order Re: Request for Remote Participation

On October 25, 2023, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty or the Company) filed a request that its counsel be permitted to remotely monitor the October 27, 2023 hearing on temporary rates, stating that counsel “had longstanding plans to be out of state prior to the rescheduling of this hearing.” Liberty noted that its co-counsel would be present in person at the hearing to present the Company’s case. Liberty did not state whether the other parties assented to its request.

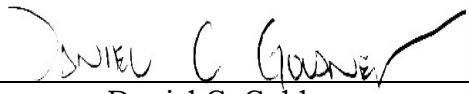
The Commission rescheduled the hearing on temporary rates to October 27 by procedural order issued on September 27, 2023, the original date of the hearing. In this procedural order, the Commission stated that “[t]he hearing shall be conducted in person, in accordance with the hearing guidelines issued on August 25, 2023.” The August 25 hearing guidelines require requests for remote participation to be filed “no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing date,” so that any requests to participate remotely in the October 27 hearing should have been filed no later than October 12, 2023. The parties filed a proposed procedural schedule on September 28, 2023, which contained the October 27 hearing date. On October 19, 2023, the Commission approved the parties’ procedural schedule, with a few slight modifications, containing the October 27 hearing date.

According to its October 25 letter, Liberty was aware of its counsel’s scheduling conflict as soon as the Commission rescheduled the hearing on temporary rates on September 27. Yet Liberty provided no explanation for why it did not file a timely request

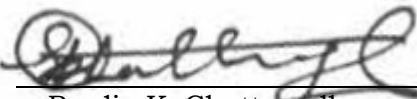
for its counsel's remote participation. As Liberty noted, its co-counsel will be physically present at the October 27 hearing to present the Company's case. Therefore, Liberty's untimely request for remote participation is DENIED.

Given the short amount of time remaining before the October 27 hearing, the Commission waives New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Puc 203.07(e). The filing of a separate request will be required for any other parties or witnesses wishing to appear remotely.

So ordered, this twenty-sixth day of October, 2023.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 23-067

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