

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 23-068

ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES

2024–2026 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan

Prehearing Order

A prehearing conference in this matter was held on October 10, 2023. Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource), Unitil Energy Systems, Inc., Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, Northern Utilities, Inc., (together, the “joint utilities”); New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE); Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA); Clean Energy New Hampshire; Conservation Law Foundation; The Nature Conservancy; the Acadia Center; LISTEN Community Services; and Southern New Hampshire Services appeared at the prehearing conference.

The matters raised at the prehearing conference included the hearing schedule, order of presentation of witnesses, as well as evidence and the record. This order addresses matters raised.

Hearing Schedule

At the prehearing conference both Eversource and the OCA indicated that a subset of their witnesses would be unavailable for the hearing scheduled on October 18, 2023. Regarding order of presentation, the joint utilities indicated they were open to an order of presentation where the utility witnesses would testify after other party witnesses. However, other parties indicated that they did not agree to an order of presentation where the joint utilities did not present their witnesses first. The Commission also queried the parties

about the anticipated amount and scope of questioning for witnesses. Most parties indicated that they joined in the filing of a stipulation of facts to simplify matters before the Commission and did not anticipate cross examination of witnesses, however, most parties also reserved the right to ask further questions of witnesses.

Based on these representations, the Commission has determined that it is unlikely that three full day hearing sessions will be necessary in this matter. Therefore, due to witness unavailability, the first hearing session scheduled on October 18, 2023, is canceled, and hearings in this matter will begin with the hearing session scheduled on October 25, 2023, beginning with the joint utilities' witnesses.


Exhibits and the Record

The parties affirmed that that all exhibits intended to be offered in the case-in-chief were pre-filed on October 9, 2023.

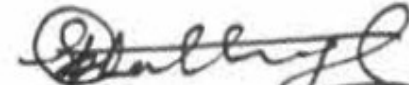
The Commission informed the parties that it intends to take official notice of the written responses to the Commission's written inquiries issued over the course of this proceeding, including having written responses adopted by witnesses during hearing sessions. The parties were afforded the opportunity to provide responses to the Commission's statement of intent, and the parties made position statements that were preliminary in nature.

No determinations have been made based on the parties' responses to the Commission's notification related to official notice at the prehearing conference.

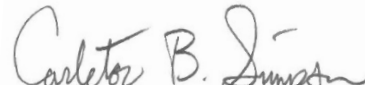
So ordered, this twelfth day of October, 2023.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 23-068

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