

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp.
d/b/a Liberty Utilities

Docket No. DE 19-xxx

Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan

Motion for Confidential Treatment of Attachment 1

Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, through counsel, respectfully moves the Commission pursuant to Puc 203.08 for a protective order granting confidential treatment of Attachment 1 to the testimony filed this date.

In support of this motion, Liberty represents as follows:

1. Attachment 1 to the joint testimony of Messrs. Johnson, Rivera, Strabone and Ms. Tebbetts is a document titled “Distribution Line Overarching Strategy.” As described in the testimony, Attachment 1 consists of “guidance documents and strategies [that are] used to evaluate the distribution system for planning purposes.”
2. These documents contain contain internal planning strategies and include specific information about Company assets, their function, their specific street locations, condition, age, etc. Many of these assets constitute “critical equipment and facilities” as defined in Puc 306.10(a): “utility infrastructure without which the utility could not provide safe and reliable service to its customers.”
3. The Commission granted confidential treatment to similar information in *Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.*, Order No. 24,677 at 14-15, 23 (Oct. 6, 2006). The Commission described the information for which UES sought confidential treatment as follows (which

information was detailed in one of several motions for confidential treatment addressed in the Order):

UES requested confidential treatment of responses to Staff data requests 1-113 and 1- 131. Data request 1-113 sought detailed descriptions of UES's distribution system, including the location of particular points on the system, the identities and locations of substations, and a description of the extent to which the distribution system is integrated or interconnected. Data request 1-131 requested background information regarding the drivers of investment in distribution system capacity. UES stated that the information requested should be kept confidential for security reasons and to protect the public safety and the reliability of the distribution system. UES claimed that both the narrative portion and tables provided in response to data requests 1-113 and 1-131 divulge the location of key components of UES's distribution system. UES asserted that the information should be kept confidential because it provides specific details concerning UES's energy infrastructure and discloses detailed information as to how the distribution system is designed and configured, revealing key components and their locations. UES stated that the responses also disclose critical information regarding the current configuration of UES's distribution system, as well as planning information as to how the system may be configured in the near future. UES reasoned that RSA 91-A:5, IV expressly exempts from public disclosure any records pertaining to confidential, commercial or financial information. UES argued that the State's and public's interests in protecting the safety and reliability of the transmission and distribution systems significantly outweigh the public interest of disclosure.

Order 24,677 at 14-15. This paragraph also accurately describes the information contained in Attachment 1.

4. The Commission granted the motion related to the Unitil information described above (and also granted other motions related to other information) as follows:

We note that no parties have objected to the seven motions for protection. With the exception of UES's March 6, 2006 motion regarding its commercial and industrial customers, the information for which confidential, protective treatment is sought is similar to information for which the Commission has granted protective treatment in the past. We are persuaded on the basis of the record that the interests of UES and ultimately its ratepayers in non-disclosure outweigh the public's interest in obtaining access to the information, described in the seven motions, except for UES's

March 7, 2006 motion to the extent it seeks confidential treatment for the names and addresses of UES's business customers.

Order at 23.

5. The Company seeks confidential treatment of Attachment 1 because it is also protected from disclosure by RSA 91-A:5, IV. Similar to the *Unitil* order, the “public’s interests in protecting the safety and reliability of the transmission and distribution systems significantly outweigh the public interest of disclosure.” *Id.*

WHEREFORE, Liberty respectfully asks that the Commission:

- a. Grant confidential treatment to Attachment 1; and
- b. Grant such other relief as is just and reasonable.

Respectfully submitted,
Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp.
By its Attorney,



Date: July 15, 2019

By: _____
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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on July 15, 2019, a copy of this motion has been electronically forwarded to counsel for Commission Staff and the Officer of the Consumer Advocate.



By: _____
Michael J. Sheehan