

**Debra Howland, Executive Director and Secretary
NH Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street – Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301**

Re: DG 14-380 Liberty Precedent Agreement

I have been following the developments of the Liberty precedent agreement proceedings under Docket 14-380. As a resident of Mason NH and not a Liberty Utilities customer, I am concerned about the impact of this agreement on my community and the implications for New Hampshire's energy future. I strongly encourage the PUC Commissioners to reject the late-filed settlement agreement as ill advised based on the following:

- *The PUC's staff own expert consultant, Melissa Whitten, recommended against approval of the original proposed Liberty agreement, citing it as "speculative" and not "least cost"; furthermore it would leave the Company (and ratepayers) with substantial excess capacity over the life of the contract.*
- *The NH Office of Consumer Advocate likewise recommended against approval of the petition stating the "the Company's analysis is not thorough."*
- *The capacity adjustment made for the settlement agreement is minimal and it ignores the defects associated with the original position, including the OCA's assessment of cost allocation to consumers, stating that "it is fundamentally unreasonable to require ratepayers now to unnecessarily bear significantly greater burden compared to ratepayers in the future."*

In addition to the significant flaws of both the original and revised proposed agreements, the following considerations should take precedence in any serious evaluation of New Hampshire's energy future:

- *Any major investment for our ratepayers should be right-sized for what is actually needed in New England and should follow the NH Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) 10-year strategy.*
- *The NH OEP's 10 year strategy strongly promotes "Diversity of Supply" as one of its principal components for a sound and stable energy policy. With New England already above 50% natural gas use, this contract along with the massive NED project would throw us off the charts in regards to diversity.*
- *A major investment in infrastructure in NH should be cost-effective and not speculative.*
- *To meet future demand both the PUC consultant and the OCA recommend other options be thoroughly examined against the proposed solution; and that evaluation should include externalities, such as the taking of private property, into consideration.*

Please consider the New England energy analysis at:

<http://acadiacenter.org/document/the-missing-energy-crisis/>

The natural gas shortage is a false construct. Investment in new pipelines is investment based upon outdated paradigms. New England is already overdependent on natural gas and adding more will prevent states from achieving climate targets. The havoc that the proposed Northeast Direct pipeline project will cause in the southern tier of New Hampshire will be devastating and permanent and is likely to be infrastructure which will be abandoned in the all too near future as the Marcellus shale is already showing rapidly dropping returns from each fracking well drilled. Take into consideration that fracking in and of itself is highly environmentally destructive and the logical conclusion must be that the time to stop growing dependence on fossil fuels is now if we are to have any chance at controlling climate change and make a reasonable transition to sustainable energy sources.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and again I urge the PUC Commissioners to reject the late-filed settlement agreement proposed by Liberty Utilities. Please help take New Hampshire into a sustainable energy future. The profits of enormous and wealthy energy companies should not take precedence over common sense. We, the people, want to move forward not backward.

Respectfully,

Alison Jaskiewicz