

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-004

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

2021 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan

Procedural Order Re: Proposed Amended Procedural Schedule

On March 1, 2022, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty or the Company), with the assent of the New Hampshire Department of Energy (Energy) and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA), filed a letter requesting approval of the following proposed amended procedural schedule:

Data Requests (DRs) to Liberty, Set # 6	March 24, 2022
Data Responses from Liberty, Set # 6	April 7, 2022
Technical Session	April 15, 2022
Non-Wires Solution (NWS) Proposal Filing	June 1, 2022
DRs to Liberty, Set 7	June 6, 2022
Data Responses from Liberty, Set #7	June 20, 2022
Technical Session	June 30, 2022
DRs to Liberty, Set 8	July 8, 2022
Data Responses from Liberty, Set #8	July 22, 2022
Technical Session	July 28, 2022
Energy/OCA/Intervenor Testimony	August 16, 2022
DRs to Energy/OCA/Intervenors	August 23, 2022
Data Responses from Energy/OCA/Intervenors	September 7, 2022
Technical Session/Settlement Conference	September 19, 2022
Technical Session/Settlement Conference	September 20, 2022
Hearing Dates, Two Full Days	October 2022

The proposed procedural schedule would amend the procedural schedule approved on October 15, 2021.

Liberty stated that it proposed the amended procedural schedule to accommodate a revised deadline for its NWS proposal and to allow more time for work on other aspects of its Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan (LCIRP) filing. It maintained that “good cause” for the revised NWS deadline exists, as required by the Procedural Order dated February 24,

2022, because additional time is required to develop an NWS solution that addresses reliability issues, in addition to supply concerns. Liberty noted that

Over the recent months [] the Company has seen a dramatic increase in *reliability* issues in the [] Charlestown/Bellow Falls area. Although this area has had reliability issues over the past two to three years, the data collected over the recent 4-6 months have painted **a dire reliability picture**.

(Emphasis added in **bold**).

The Commission has reviewed the E-2 and E-38 reports filed by Liberty for the last quarter of 2021 and finds them a cause for concern. Pursuant to its authority under RSA 374:4, the Commission directs Liberty to file in this docket a report on the scope of the reliability issues in the Charlestown/Bellow Falls area, including what measures Liberty has taken, or plans to take, to address those issues pending approval of its NWS, no later than May 2, 2022. In addition, the Commission requests Energy to initiate an investigation into this matter, if it has not already done so. See RSA 374:7. Energy is requested to file in this docket a report regarding the status of its investigation on or before May 2, 2022.

It has been determined that good cause exists to extend the deadline for Liberty to submit its NWS in this docket beyond March 16, 2022. Therefore, the proposed amended schedule has been found to be in the public interest and is approved. The hearings on July 13 and July 14, 2022 have been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 12, 2022 and Thursday, October 13, 2022, starting on both days at 9:00 a.m. The hearings will be conducted in person, in accordance with the hearing guidelines dated October 15, 2021.

To assess Liberty's progress with the guidance provided in Docket No. IR 15-296, the grid modernization docket, as it relates to the Company's LCIRP under review in this docket, a status conference will be held on June 16, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. At the status conference, the parties should be prepared to report on how the stakeholder process is

proceeding. The Commission will issue a separate procedural order containing record requests to be answered prior to the June 16 status conference.

So ordered, this fourth day of March, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DANIEL C. GOLDNER", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel C. Goldner
Presiding Officer
Chairman

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-004

Printed: 3/4/2022

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