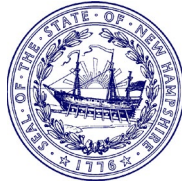


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMISSIONER
Jared S. Chicoine

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-3670

FAX No. 271-1526

Website:
www.energy.nh.gov

January 16, 2024

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: DE 22-043 Low Income Electric Assistance Program
DOE Joint Request for Additional Time

Dear Chairman Goldner:

The New Hampshire Department of Energy (“Department” or “DOE”) is filing this Joint Request for Additional Time, as directed in the Commission’s recent Order. *See Procedural Order Re: Approval of Proposed Procedural Schedule, Re-Affirmation of Scope of Proceeding, and Scheduling of February 21, 2024 Hearing* (hereinafter “Procedural Order”) (January 5, 2024) at 2. This letter is timely filed. (Ten days from the date of the Commission’s order fell on January 15, a legal holiday).

The procedural schedule recently approved by the Commission was filed on September 22, 2023. Mr. Roger Colton is no longer available as a witness in January or February 2024.

The parties met in an informal technical session on Friday, January 12, 2024, and are working on preparing a new proposed procedural schedule with an anticipated hearing date in April of 2024, contingent upon Mr. Colton’s availability. The parties anticipate filing a proposed procedural hearing on or before February 1, 2024.

The parties further renew their concern that limited contract-funds remain for Mr. Colton’s preparation and testimony. *See Joint Comments Regarding Scoping Matters and Proposed Procedural Schedule* (Sept. 22, 2023) (hereinafter “*Joint Comments*”) at 1-2 (the limited contract funds that remain are anticipated to be sufficient to permit Mr. Colton to appear as a witness and prepare for a hearing on the *Colton Report*¹ of one day at most).

¹ The *Colton Report* was filed on October 3, 2022 in this docket with the then-support of all parties, and of the EAP Advisory Board as summarized in DOE’s cover letter filed that date with the *Colton Report*. *See also Colton Report*, Bates 91-202 as filed on October 3, 2022 (internal summary of Roger Colton’s recommendations) and *Joint Comments* (Sept 22, 2023).

The other parties jointly make this request for additional time by and through counsel or through their designated representatives, as follows: Community Action Agencies (Liza Reynolds, Electric Assistance Program Director); Unitil Energy Systems Inc. (Matthew Campbell); Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource (Attorney David Wiesner); the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (Attorney Susan Geiger) Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Attorney Michael Sheehan); the Office of the Consumer Advocate (Don Kreis); and LISTEN, represented by New Hampshire Legal Assistance (Attorney Stephen Tower).

Consistent with the Commission's March 17, 2020 letter, this letter is being filed solely in electronic form. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer

Mary.E. Schwarzer
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner
Department of Energy

Docket (electronic service)

ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov
Alyssa.Maston@libertyutilities.com
amanda.o.noonan@energy.nh.gov
beaulieuc@unitil.com
campbellm@unitil.com
david.j.shulock@energy.nh.gov
david.wiesner@eversource.com
demeris@unitil.com
donald.m.kreis@oca.nh.gov
dvenora@keeganwerlin.com
Eileen.P.Smiglowski@energy.nh.gov
elizabeth.r.nixon@energy.nh.gov
Energy-Litigation@energy.nh.gov
ereynolds@capbm.org
Erica.Menard@libertyutilities.com
gouldingc@unitil.com
hanssk@nhec.com
jagri@bm-cap.org
jessica.chiavara@eversource.com
john.braswell@eversource.com
joshua.w.elliott@energy.nh.gov
jralston@keeganwerlin.com
main@unitil.com
mary.e.schwarzer@energy.nh.gov
Matthew.C.Young@energy.nh.gov
maureen.karpf@libertyutilities.com
melissa.price@eversource.com
Melissa.Samenfeld@libertyutilities.com
Michael.J.Crouse@oca.nh.gov
michael.sheehan@libertyutilities.com
nawazelski@unitil.com
nhregulatory@eversource.com
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
rburke@nhla.org
SaretteR@nhec.com
sgeiger@orr-reno.com
stearnsj@unitil.com
stower@nhla.org
taylorp@unitil.com
theresa.washington@eversource.com
thomas.c.frantz@energy.nh.gov