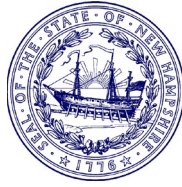


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

March 28, 2024

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DE 23-044 Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty 2023
Default Service Solicitations – DOE Letter of Request

Dear Chairman Goldner:

On May 30, 2023, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty filed the Direct Testimony of Tyler Culbertson and James M. King, with attachments, which presented Liberty's proposed Energy Service reconciliation for the period August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023. The Commission docketed this filing in DE 23-044. On June 23, 2023 Liberty filed additional testimony and materials in support of its proposed Default Energy Service rate for effect August 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.

On June 28, 2023, the Commission held a hearing to review these filings. At the June 23, 2023 hearing, the Commission heard statements from each party that there was a disagreement regarding Liberty's inclusion of certain costs related to a quantity of Class III RECs included in the reconciliation of Energy Service costs. See Hearing Transcript at pp. 8-12. The Department of Energy (Department) suggested, for the sake of administrative efficiency, that the adjudication of those Class III REC costs be deferred to a later date and that the instant hearing could focus on review of Liberty's Default Energy Service solicitation, pricing, and rates for the upcoming period. In its subsequent Order No. 26,854 issued June 30, 2023, the Commission ordered that a separate phase of the rate proceeding would be opened to adjudicate the final recoverability of the \$864,640 in Class III REC costs sought by Liberty. See Order 26,854 at p. 9.

On the afternoon of December 12, 2023, the Commission held a hearing to adjudicate the issue of the Class III REC costs in question. As of this date, the Commission has yet to issue an Order addressing the final recoverability of those Class III REC costs.

The Department expects that on or about May 30, 2024, Liberty will file its proposed Energy Service reconciliation for the twelve-month period of August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024. The Department is mindful that the Commission's final determination regarding the Class III REC costs in question will impact Liberty's reconciliation of Energy Service costs for the period, as those costs are currently included in Liberty's Energy Service rates and are being collected from its customers. Should the Commission determine that the costs are not appropriate for collection from customers, the Company will need to include the return of those amounts in its upcoming reconciliation filing. As

such, the Department submits this letter to respectfully request that the Commission issue a final determination in this matter by mid-April so that any necessary adjustments can be included in Liberty's upcoming reconciliation filing.

The Department appreciates the Commission's attention to this matter. Pursuant to current Commission policy, this filing is being made electronically only.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew C. Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "Y".

Matthew C. Young
Hearings Examiner/Staff Attorney

cc: Docket Service List

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A A A



Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 23-044

Printed: 3/28/2024

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