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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
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August 28, 2024

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

Re: DE 22-035; Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty; Petition for Approval of Step Adjustment Filing; Statement of Department of Energy

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Pursuant to the Public Utilities Commission Procedural Order dated June 20, 2024, in this matter, the Department of Energy (Department or DOE) hereby states that the Department has reviewed Liberty's May 29, 2024 Motion to Amend Order No. 26,836 (May 31, 2023) requesting to avoid a previously ordered rate reduction and seeking an additional rate increase to correct prior errors in collecting the third and final step adjustment approved in Liberty's last completed rate case, DE 19-064. At the same time, Liberty seeks to increase base distribution rates in its currently pending rate case, DE 23-039. Liberty reported to the Commission on July 30, 2024, in DE 23-039 that it was engaged in settlement discussions with the parties in DE 23-039 (which includes DOE and the Office of the Consumer Advocate). These settlement discussions continue to progress and if successful will likely resolve Liberty's request in this docket concerning correcting the third step adjustment. Liberty is scheduled to provide a further update to the Commission on the DE 23-039 Settlement discussions on August 30, 2024.

In this matter, by order dated August 6, 2024, the Commission scheduled a hearing for October 15, 2024. Given the progress of the settlement discussions in DE 23-039, the likelihood that successful settlement in that docket would resolve the Company's request in this docket, and the 7-week period of time until the scheduled hearing, the Department respectfully declines to provide a substantive position on Liberty's proposed step adjustment corrections at this time. The Department requests that the Commission take no further action on the Company's request in this docket until the settlement discussions in DE 23-039 can be completed. If this matter is not resolved by settlement, the Department will be in a position to provide a substantive position statement on September 24, 2024, which is three weeks prior to the October 15 hearing.

The Department has discussed this “request for no further action at this time” with Liberty and the Office of the Consumer Advocate and both have stated they have no objections to this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Paul B. Dexter

Paul B. Dexter, Esq.
DOE Legal Director

cc: Service List (*electronically*)

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