

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 23-039

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

Request for Change in Distribution Rates

Procedural Order Re: Request to Extend Stay and Schedule Hearings


On September 30, 2024, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) filed a status report, in which it notified the Commission that the parties had agreed to October 11, 2024 as the target date for filing a settlement agreement resolving all pending issues. Based on this date, Liberty requested the Commission to schedule a hearing that would allow the resulting rates to take effect on December 1, 2024. In addition, Liberty stated that the parties requested an extension of the stay, which previously had been extended to September 16, 2024. *See* Procedural Order dated August 2, 2024. No responses have been filed to Liberty's status report since that date.

In response to Liberty's September 30 filing, the Commission makes the following rulings. Any settlement agreement in this matter should be filed by October 11, 2024, as anticipated by the parties. Assuming that a settlement agreement has been filed by this date, the Commission schedules full day hearings on January 9 and January 15, 2025, starting each day at 9:00 a.m. Due to other scheduling commitments, and the need of the Commission to properly review the settlement agreement and supporting evidence, the Commission would not have the capability to hear this matter, and prepare a dispositional Order, in either November or December. These hearings shall be conducted in person, in accordance with the previously issued hearing guidelines. Furthermore, Liberty and the parties are strongly encouraged to file testimony that supports a Commission finding of just and reasonable rates for the

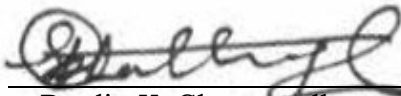
Commission's review in this proceeding, relating to any proposed settlement agreement, no later than November 15, 2024, given the complexities of the matters at issue in this case. If there is any adverse party to the settlement agreement, the Commission gives leave for such a party to file rebuttal testimony no later than December 12, 2024.

As the Commission has scheduled the final hearings for this matter, and has encouraged the filing of Testimony, the Liberty request for an extended stay in this proceeding is rendered MOOT. In the meantime, the settling parties should make sure that the effective date(s), and related calculations, are adjusted accordingly, with a goal of implementation, if the settlement agreement proposal were to be approved, of February 1, 2025. (If Liberty and the other parties to the settlement require additional time to accomplish these re-calculations, they shall inform the Commission accordingly).

So ordered, this ninth day of October, 2024.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 23-039

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