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August 16, 2024

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

Re: DG 23-067; Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty;
Request for Change in Distribution Rates; Department of Energy Status Update

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Pursuant to Procedural Order dated August 2, 2024 in this matter, the Department of Energy (Department) provides this status update concerning issues that remain pending for decision in this docket, which involves a general distribution rate increase sought by Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty). In preparing this status report, the Department consulted with the other parties to this case, *i.e.*, Liberty and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA).

In short, all issues in Liberty's permanent rate request remain unresolved, including the Department's Motion to Dismiss filed in this case on February 16, 2024. By Procedural Order dated March 14, 2024, the Commission stayed the proceeding until June 7, 2024. At a status conference in this matter held on June 4, 2024, the parties and the Commission discussed how Order 27,000 (issued April 30, 2024 in DE 23-039 Liberty's electric distribution rate case) which called for several time intensive DOE led audits might apply to this gas case. Tr. 6/4/24 at 5-22. On June 4, 2024, Liberty filed a waiver of the right to have this proceeding resolved with 12 months, as provided in RSA 378:I(a). DG 23-067, Docket Tab 85.

Since the June 4 status conference, the parties to this case have met to discuss pursuing a comprehensive settlement of all issues in this case, similar to what Liberty reported to the Commission in Liberty's electric case on July 30, 2024. DE 23-039, Docket Tab 141. The parties intend to step up the attention devoted to gas settlement discussions once a settlement in the electric case is reached.

In DE 23-039, Liberty will provide a status update on the settlement discussions no later than August 30, 2024. DE 23-039, Docket Tab 142. The parties to this gas case recommend that a similar status update be filed in the gas case on September 27, 2024, and that the stay in this case be extended until October 15, 2024.

Consistent with the Commission's current practices this letter is being filed only in electronic form.

Sincerely,

/s/ Paul B. Dexter

Paul B. Dexter, Legal Director

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