

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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September 10, 2024

Chairman Daniel C. Goldner
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

via e-mail to: ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov

Re: Docket No. DE 24-073
Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Company
Show Cause Proceeding

Dear Chairman Goldner:

I am in receipt of the attached correspondence, related to the above-referenced proceeding, from Steven E. Patnaude, the Commission's long-serving court reporter. As you know, and as Mr. Patnaude explains, for medical reasons Mr. Patnaude has relinquished much if not all of his court reporting duties, at least for the present. He further noted that Michelle Perrier Cole of Avicore Reporting substituted for him at the August 27, 2024 prehearing conference in this docket.

Attached to Mr. Patnaude's message to me was an invoice from the substitute court reporter in the amount of \$809.00, addressed to the Public Utilities Commission. According to Mr. Patnaude, you informed him that you believe the OCA is responsible for the payment of this invoice because "it" was our "request."

The Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) is not responsible for this invoice and is unable to pay the amount billed by the substitute court reporter. We did not request the transcription of the prehearing conference; rather, we assumed that a transcript would be prepared because the "Hearing Guidelines" letter issued by the Commission on June 18, 2024 (tab 4) affirmatively states (at page 4) that "[a] stenographer will make a record of each of the Commission's hearings." The OCA is not aware of any statute or rule that makes our office responsible for the cost of transcribing a Commission proceeding – even when, as here, the Commission instituted the docket upon our petition (which may be the "it" to which Mr. Patnaude referred in his message).

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify this situation as we understand it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DKreis".

Donald M. Kreis
Consumer Advocate

cc: Service List, via e-mail
Attachment