

**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: Extension of Stay to September 16, 2024, et al.

The Commission takes note of a series of filings made by Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty or the Company) since the Commission's issuance of its procedural order on May 23, 2024, which extended the stay in this proceeding until July 31, 2024. On June 4, 2024, following a line of Commission inquiry at the June 4, 2024 status conference held in Docket No. DG 23-067 (relating to the Company's gas utility affiliate), Liberty filed a letter stating that it concurred with the New Hampshire Department of Energy's (DOE's) requested approach, as addressed in the DOE's Motion for Clarification of Order No. 27,000 in this instant proceeding, that Liberty's shareholders will bear the costs of the DOE's forthcoming additional audit work.

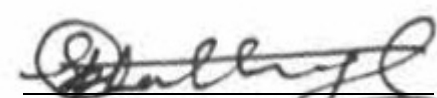
On July 29, 2024, the Company filed a periodic report regarding its rate case expenses in this proceeding pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1905.01(a), wherein Liberty stated that it had expended \$1,574,572.69 in rate case expenses through July 28, 2024, and expected to spend a 'Total Estimated Amount' of rate case expenses of approximately \$3 million in this proceeding. On July 30, 2024, the Company, through counsel, filed a letter with the Commission advising that the parties to this proceeding have been engaged in settlement discussions, and requesting that the Commission "refrain from taking any further actions regarding this docket at this time." Liberty also committed to provide "a further update regarding these settlement discussions on or before August 30, 2024."

In light of these developments, the Commission EXTENDS the stay in this proceeding until September 16, 2024, in the interest of judicial economy, to accommodate any potential case developments beyond August 30. The Commission also ORDERS the Company to provide an update regarding its settlement discussions no later than August 30, 2024. The Commission further expresses its concern regarding the very large potential total estimated rate case expenses indicated by the Company in its July 29 filing, and reserves the right to schedule future status conferences regarding rate case expenses, as necessary. The Commission further acknowledges Liberty's June 4 filing accepting shareholder responsibility for the DOE's potential audit costs, and generally re-endorses the overall DOE audit approach initially approved in Order No. 27,000, with the DOE's suggested modifications as concurred-with by the Company, rendering the DOE's Motion for Clarification MOOT.

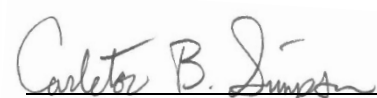
So ordered, this second day of August, 2024.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 23-039

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