

December 17, 2015

Debra Howland, Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-7319

RE: DG 15-422 *15-442*
Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities
Petition for Approval of a Gas Franchise in Jaffrey, Rindge, Swanzey and Winchester

Dear Ms. Howland:

I attended a presentation in Rindge, NH on 12/16/2015 by Michael Licata and Richard McDonald of Liberty Utilities regarding their proposal for Rindge, NH. The presentation was part of the regular meeting of the Rindge Board of Selectmen.

The presentation included maps of the proposed route. The maps are the same ones included in William Clark's testimony filed on this docket. During the Question and Answer period, Board Chair Robert Hamilton asked Mr. Licata if Liberty had been in contact with Franklin Pierce University as the maps show a line directly to Campus and it appears Franklin Pierce is included in the number of customers listed in Mr. Clark's testimony. Mr. Licata admitted that there has been no outreach to potential customers and the figures and route presented are based solely on demographics. A guesstimate – I believe that is what it is called.

Mr. Hamilton then read a statement from the COO of Franklin Pierce University stating that they had no interest or need for gas to be brought in to campus. Mr. Licata had no response other than to admit they had not contacted Franklin Pierce University.

Mr. Clark's testimony indicates connections to 72 businesses in Rindge. We are a rural community with no town water, no town sewer and scattered businesses along the highways. Unlike some neighboring towns, we do not have a developed commercial downtown area. I am curious about where all these businesses are located.

When questioned about the connection to Kinder Morgan's N.E.D. pipeline, Mr. Licata stated that the local gas distribution for Rindge was dependent on the construction of N.E.D pipeline. When questioned about the Petition statement that indicated that without N.E.D., Liberty would pursue providing CNG and/or LNG, Mr. Licata replied that it would not be economically feasible and the company would not pursue such options for Rindge, Jaffrey and Winchester, NH. My conclusion is that Liberty is positioning itself to create a "need" for N.E.D. in towns along the pipeline route in which it previously had no business interests. This does not qualify for an "expansion" of service.

Mr. Licata and Mr. McDonald had no information to share with the residents of Rindge about what the connection between the N.E.D. pipeline and Liberty's distribution lines would be other than to say it would be "a shack." I guess that's a technical term we're not familiar with in Rindge.

When asked about the quality of the gas Liberty would provide, Mr. Licata told us they are just a distribution company. Oddly the same response we get from Kinder Morgan their partner (via their parent company, Algonquin Power) in Northeast Expansion LLC which was formed to build and operate N.E.D. who always demurs on quality with the answer that they are just a transmission company. Since we'll be the ones exposed to leaks this is an important question that needs to be answered.

It is my understanding the NH PUC has refused to acknowledge that this relationship has had an undue influence on the precedent agreement between Liberty and Kinder Morgan's Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co LLC but to those in attendance in Rindge, NH on 12/16/15 the creation of an "artificial need" for N.E.D. was as clear as the nose on Mr. Licata's face.

In closing, I would ask that the Commission please send representatives to these meetings. I would like your staff to experience first-hand two things:

1. The sales pitch we are being subjected to from Liberty Utilities including biased charts and graphs and an appalling lack of real information.
2. That the majority of residents and business owners in Rindge have no interest or need for Liberty's gas.

We are not interested in having our town torn up for something we don't want or need.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryann B. Harper
Rindge, NH