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November 7, 2019

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Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: DE 18-057, Electric Assistance Program
Request for Approval of Design Change
Eversource and Liberty's Joint Petition for Recovery of Costs
Proposed Procedural Schedule

Dear Ms. Howland:

Pursuant to a duly issued Order of Notice, the Commission held a prehearing conference in the above-captioned docket on October 23, 2019. The Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a letter of participation in an earlier phase of this docket, on April 9, 2018, which remains in effect. No petitions to intervene were filed.

At the prehearing conference, the Public Service Company of New Hampshire, d/b/a Eversource and Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) d/b/a Liberty, stated that they are seeking recovery of costs relating to changes they made to their respective billing and customer information systems required to implement adjustments to the application of the Energy Assistance Program (EAP) discount. The adjustments make the discount available for bill charges owed to non-utility competitive energy suppliers. Eversource seeks recovery of costs that are approximately 39% of its original estimate. Liberty seeks recovery of costs that are approximately 7.3% higher than its original estimate.

At the prehearing conference, Commission Staff (Staff) noted Staff looks forward to exploring the costs, scope, prudence, and reasonableness, of Eversource and Liberty's requests to recover costs. Staff added that Unitil Energy Systems Inc. notified the Commission on October 12, 2019, that its costs to comply with the EAP design change were de minimis, and it would not seek recovery.

Staff and the parties held a technical session immediately after the pre-hearing conference. The parties agree to the following schedule:

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Action or Event	Date or Deadline
Supplemental Filing Liberty	11/6/2019
Rolling discovery to Eversource & Liberty	11/22/2019
Utility responses to discovery	12/6/2019
Technical Session on discovery/settlement	12/18/2019

The parties have further agreed that following the technical session, on or before December 20, 2019, they will submit a proposed schedule to accommodate remaining issues through settlement, further discovery, or additional preparation for a hearing.

Staff respectfully requests that the Commission approve this procedural schedule. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Mary E. Schwarzer*

Mary E. Schwarzer
Staff Attorney

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