STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DG 23-067

LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP. D/B/A LIBERTY Request for Change in Distribution Rates

Procedural Order Re: Stay in Proceeding Until June 7, 2024; Cancellation of May 14-15 and June 4-5, 2024 Hearings; RSA 378:6, I(a) Waiver; Deadline for Finalized Scope of Work for PricewaterhouseCoopers Report

On March 6, 2024, the Commission held a hearing in this matter regarding a number of pending motions filed by Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty or the Company) and the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE). In light of the statements made by Liberty, the DOE, and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) at the March 6 hearing, the Commission's findings, and the Company's filing, on March 8, 2024, of its waiver of the 12-month deadline for this proceeding pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(a) (or, July 26, 2024), the Commission makes the following procedural rulings, which elaborate on and memorialize the Commission's bench rulings made at the March 6 hearing.

Pursuant to the Commission's authority under RSA 541-A:31, RSA 365:28, and N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.13 and 203.15, the Commission hereby GRANTS a stay for this proceeding through <u>June 7, 2024</u>. The hearings scheduled in this proceeding for May 14-15 and June 4-5, 2024, and all other procedural features of this proceeding through June 7, 2024, are hereby CANCELLED, with the following exception. Liberty, with the involvement of the DOE and OCA, is to develop a revised Scope of Work for the Company's intended PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Report on the matters of interest in this proceeding by the close of Commission business on <u>March 21, 2024</u>. In this filing, the

Company is to indicate the expected filing date of the PwC Report with the Commission.

The Commission will issue a further procedural order based on these responses.

The Commission's ruling on the DOE's Motion to Dismiss is DEFERRED; the Company's, and the DOE's, Motions relating to a stay are rendered MOOT insofar as the Commission's granting of the stay until June 7, 2024 satisfies these parties' request for a stay. The Commission also acknowledges Liberty's written commitment, presented in its RSA 378:6, I(a) waiver, that it will not seek recoupment of the difference between temporary and permanent rates authorized by RSA 378:29, for the duration of the stay. This issue will be addressed in any future consideration of recoupment in this proceeding. So ordered, this fourteenth day of March, 2024.

Daniel C. Goldner Chairman

Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner

Carleton B. Simpson Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 23-067

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