

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 21-G-0577 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of Liberty Utilities (St. Lawrence Gas) Corp. for Gas Service.

RULING ON SCHEDULE

(Issued April 4, 2023)

MICHAEL C. CLARKE, Administrative Law Judge:

On March 31, 2023, Liberty Utilities (St. Lawrence Gas) Corp. (Liberty SLG), trial staff of the Department of Public Service (DPS) and Multiple Intervenors (MI) filed a Joint Proposal resulting from the parties' settlement efforts in this proceeding. The only other party to the proceeding is the Utility Intervention Unit of the Division of Consumer Protection of the New York State Department of State, which does not oppose the Joint Proposal.

During a conference call on April 4, 2023, a discussion was held regarding further process necessary for bringing the Joint Proposal to the attention of the Public Service Commission for its consideration. Representatives of Liberty SLG, DPS and MI participated in the call, at which I adopted April 28, 2023, as the deadline for statements in support of the Joint Proposal. This ruling confirms my oral ruling, to which no party objected.

On the above filing deadline, the parties must email their submissions to me and each other and make their filing with the Commission's Secretary by 4:30 p.m. As the proponents of a settlement have the burden of proving that it is in the public interest, their statements must address the underlying rationale for their support of the agreement and how the

settlement of issues compares to both their litigated position and what they regard as the likely outcome of litigation. Parties are encouraged to refer to the Commission's Settlement Guidelines in preparation of their statements.¹

An evidentiary hearing will be conducted by teleconference at 10:00 a.m. on May 4, 2023. Participants in the April 4, 2023, call stated that there is no need for cross-examination of witnesses. Accordingly, the primary purpose of the hearing will be to receive into evidence the Joint Proposal and other documents, as appropriate. Further details regarding the evidentiary hearing, including instructions for participating, will be forthcoming.

Finally, in consultation with other parties, Liberty SLG shall email me and copy to the other parties a joint exhibit list by May 2, 2023.

(Signed)

MICHAEL C. CLARKE

¹ Cases 90-M-0255, et al., Procedures for Settlements and Stipulation Agreements, Opinion 92-2 (issued March 24, 1992).