

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

NHPUC 19JUL'17PM3:21

Date: July 19, 2017

TO: Commissioners

FROM: John S. Clifford, Hearing Examiner

RE: DG 17-069 – Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas Corp.)
d/b/a Liberty Utilities – Keene Division
Petition for Tariff Revision for Standard Heat Content Value

HEARING EXAMINER'S REPORT

At your request, I presided over the June 23, 2017 scheduling conference in the above referenced matter. The following constitutes my report of that proceeding.

On May 24, 2017, the Commission issued Order No. 26,019 suspending the proposed tariff to consider whether the proposed tariff change is just and reasonable and whether the changes, if adopted, would result in any changes to the continued provision of safe and reliable gas service by Liberty in its Keene service area.

Appearances: Michael J. Sheehan, Esq. for Liberty Utilities
Alexander Speidel, Esq. for Commission Staff.

Positions: Liberty outlined that it was announcing no new changes in rates, fares or prices and that it seeks to continue to charge the same rate for natural gas and propane air. The Company believes that this is a ministerial change in its tariff designed to describe how it will calculate therms of natural gas to be billed to its customers. It stated that this was not a proceeding to determine if the company is permitted to serve natural gas in Keene and that it did not view this proceeding as one calling for the safety or efficacy of providing natural gas. The Company has announced that it has received all local approvals relating to the installation of the compressed natural gas facility. The Company believes that the only issue before the Commission in this docket is whether the language insert is appropriate and reasonable. It believes it has the right to serve gas of any kind in Keene with that issue being raised in DW 17-068.

Staff announced that it was closely monitoring this docket with the proceeding in DG 17-068, and it did not know, at this time, if more time would be needed beyond the suspension date of August 24, 2017. Staff stated that it is still reviewing the tariff revision and that it would take note of whatever ruling comes out of the declaratory judgement docket to guide its approach to examining the Keene conversion process. The parties did not plan on meeting in a technical session following this hearing. Staff reported that it would be reaching out to the Company to further discuss the potential of issuing a procedural schedule in this matter in the future.

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Recommendations:

I recommend that the Commission continue to monitor this docket along with the companion docket, DG 17-068.

By


John S. Clifford, Hearing Examiner

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Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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- a) **Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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- b) **Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.**
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