

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 13-251

**LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP.
d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES
Formerly, ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS, INC.
d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES, INC.**

Winter 2013-2014 Cost of Gas

**SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER OF NOTICE REGARDING PROPOSED
INCREASE IN COST OF GAS RATE**

On January 31, 2014, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, formerly known as EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, Inc. (henceforth, "Liberty") filed a petition with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to increase its cost of gas (COG) rates for non-Fixed Price Option (FPO) residential and commercial/industrial (C&I) customers for the remainder of the winter 2013-2014 COG period, from March 1, 2014, through April 30, 2014, beyond the approved maximum COG rates. In Order No. 25.591 (October 31, 2013), in the instant docket, the Commission approved the 2013-2014 winter COG rates for Liberty; the rate was set at \$0.8895 per therm for non-FPO residential customers, which could be adjusted monthly pursuant to Order No. 25,591 without further Commission approval to a maximum rate of \$1.1119 per therm, or 25 percent above the approved COG rate. Order No. 25,591 at p. 10-11. The same 25 percent maximum rate increase cap was also placed on the approved C&I COG rates. *Id.*

In its petition, Liberty proposes to further increase the residential COG rate for the March 1, 2014-April 30, 2014 period to \$1.2441 per therm. (Liberty began charging the maximum residential COG rate of \$1.1119 per therm beginning on February 1, 2014, during the pendency

of this petition). Liberty also proposes to increase the C&I COG rates by the same amount, \$0.1322 per therm, beyond the maximum rates approved in Order No. 25,591, to \$1.2331 per therm for C&I low winter use customers, and \$1.2457 per therm for C&I high winter use customers, respectively. Included in Liberty's filing were revised tariff pages and supporting materials for the changed rates. The proposed increases in the COG rates are to partially reduce a projected under-collection of approximately \$9.3 million based on actual and projected costs for the remainder of the 2013-2014 winter COG period, driven by a sharp increase in prices for baseload supplies and natural gas spot purchases during this winter. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2013/13-251.html>.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to the reasonableness of rates and charges pursuant to RSA 378, the price forecasts, and the rate impacts of the proposed changes to the COG rates. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a hearing be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on February 19, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Liberty shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a display ad summarizing this Order of Notice no later than February 9, 2014, in such newspapers with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication

to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before February 14, 2014; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Liberty and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before February 14, 2014, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before February 19, 2014.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fourth day of February, 2014.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

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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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- 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: DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.