

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

DG 14-041

ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS, INC. d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES

Cast Iron/Bare Steel Replacement Program Results

ORDER OF NOTICE

On May 15, 2014, EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed with the Commission its fiscal year 2014 (April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014) Cast Iron/Bare Steel (CIBS) Replacement Program Results. As a result of work completed in fiscal year 2014, Liberty seeks a permanent increase in its base distribution rates of \$330,245 effective for customer usage on or after July 1, 2014. The program results and request for a rate increase are filed pursuant to the settlement agreement in Docket No. DG 11-040 approved by the Commission in *National Grid USA, et al.*, Order No. 25,370 (May 30, 2012). 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/2014/14-041.html>

The filing contained the following information: (1) a report on actual cast iron/bare steel capital spending for fiscal year 2014 (April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014); (2) a proposed \$330,245 increase in the annual revenue requirement to be recovered through distribution rates effective for customer usage on and after July 1, 2014; and (3) an explanation of differences from the fiscal year 2014 budget.

In the attachments supporting the filing, Liberty calculated that the requested \$330,245 increase to its annual revenue requirement would result, on an overall bill basis, in an

annual increase to residential heating customers of \$1.64 for a customer using 797 therms per year, representing a 0.15 percent increase.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether Liberty's filing conforms to the requirements of the pertinent settlement agreements, whether Liberty has appropriately accounted for the costs of the CIBS replacement program, whether Liberty's CIBS-related forecasts, budgets and actual expenditures are reasonable and appropriate, whether Liberty has applied appropriate cost-control methodologies to its CIBS replacement program planning and construction work, matters related to "road degradation" fees assessed by certain New Hampshire municipalities located in Liberty's service area, road-resurfacing related "carry-over" costs, potential improvements to the CIBS filing review process, and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable as required by RSA 378:5 and 378:8. 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 Liberty, Staff of the Commission, and any intervenors hold a technical session at the premises of the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on June 12, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.; and it is

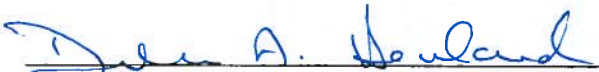
FURTHER ORDERED, that a hearing be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on June 25, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.; and it is

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 copy of this Order of Notice no later than June 4, 2014, in a newspaper 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 June 23, 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 June 23, 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. Rules 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 June 25, 2014.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-seventh day of May, 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.**