

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

DG 17-198

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

**Petition to Approve Firm Supply and Transportation Agreements and the
Granite Bridge Project**

ORDER OF NOTICE

Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) is a public utility pursuant to RSA 362:2, that provides natural gas service to customers in southern and central New Hampshire and in Berlin. On December 22, 2017, Liberty filed a petition (Supply/Transportation/Granite Bridge filing) for approval of contractual arrangements, and for Commission findings regarding the prudence of proposed investments, as follows: (1) Commission approval of a delivered supply contract with ENGIE Gas & LNG, LLC; (2) Commission approval of a precedent agreement with Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS) for firm transportation capacity; (3) a Commission finding of prudence for Liberty's decision to build an in-state pipeline, the Granite Bridge Pipeline, to be owned by Liberty and extending from an existing gas pipeline in Stratham to the existing Concord Lateral gas pipeline in Manchester; and (4) a Commission finding of prudence for Liberty's decision to build an on-system liquefied natural gas ("LNG") facility, the Granite Bridge facility, to be located in Epping adjacent to New Hampshire State Route 101. Liberty also filed a motion for protective order and confidential treatment regarding the Supply/Transportation/Granite Bridge filing.

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/2017/17-198.html>.

The Supply/Transportation/Granite Bridge filing raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 374:1 and 374:2 (public utilities to provide reasonably safe and adequate service at "just and reasonable" rates); RSA 374:4 (Commission's duty to keep informed of the manner in which all public utilities in the state provide for safe and adequate service); RSA 374:7 (Commission's authority to investigate and ascertain the methods employed by public utilities to "order all reasonable and just improvements and extensions in service or methods" to supply gas); RSA 378:7 (rates collected by a public utility for services rendered or to be rendered must be just and reasonable); and, by implication, the standards of RSA 378:28 (all utility plant to be included in permanent rates must be found by the Commission to be prudent, used, and useful). These issues embrace, but are not limited to, the question of whether Liberty reasonably investigated and analyzed its long-term supply requirements and the alternatives for satisfying those requirements.

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 Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on March 9, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is


FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Liberty, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition; 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 February 15, 2018, 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 March 7, 2018; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, 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 March 7, 2018, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before March 9, 2018.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eighth day of February, 2018.


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.**