

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

DE 18-034

**LIBERTY UTILITIES (GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC) CORP.
d/b/d LIBERTY UTILITIES**

**Reliability Enhancement and Vegetation Management
Plan Results and Reconciliation for 2017**

ORDER OF NOTICE

On March 16, 2018, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed the results of its reliability enhancement plan (REP) and vegetation management plan (VMP) for calendar year 2017. The filing was made pursuant to a settlement agreement approved in Order No. 25,638 (March 17, 2014) as amended by Order No. 26,005 (April 12, 2017). Liberty provided supporting testimony and related exhibits in the filing.

The filing contains (1) a report on the actual spending on REP and VMP operations and maintenance (O&M) and REP capital investment for 2017, including an explanation of the difference between budgeted spending and actual expenditures; (2) a request to recover \$552,414 of O&M costs for 2017 involving incremental spending of \$245,902 over the base amount of \$1.5 million, and \$306,512 of O&M costs incurred during 2016 but paid during 2017; (3) a request to recover \$166,322 of revenue associated with a total of approximately \$1.7 million in capital investment between 2016 and 2017; and (4) a summary of reliability performance 2017 including distribution feeder reliability performance.

Liberty states that it is proposing a REP/VMP adjustment factor of 0.059 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), an increase of 0.063 cents per kWh from the current credit of 0.004 cents per kWh. The monthly bill impact for a customer using 650 kWh per month, based on average

usage for a residential customer in 2017, will be an increase in monthly bills of \$0.58., or an increase of 0.48%.

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/2018/18-034.html>.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether Liberty appropriately accounted for the costs of its REP and VMP and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable as required by RSA 378:5 and 7. 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, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on May 9, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.; and it is

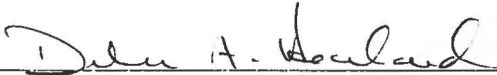
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Liberty shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than April 27, 2018, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before May 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 May 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 May 9, 2018.

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