

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 19-062

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

Annual Retail Rate Adjustment Filing

ORDER OF NOTICE

On March 26, 2019, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed a request for approval of annual retail rate adjustments related to its stranded cost charge and transmission service charge. Liberty calculates that the impact of the rate changes for a residential customer using 650 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month would be a monthly bill decrease of \$4.80, a 3.88 percent decrease from current average monthly bills. The decrease is due primarily to decreased transmission costs from reduced federal income tax rates and lower under-collections to be recovered through the proposed transmission charge.

Liberty's stranded cost charge recovers a contract termination charge from New England Power Company (NEP) for termination of an all-requirements power contract entered into prior to the advent of retail competition in Liberty's service territory. The Commission approved the recovery mechanism in Order No. 23,041 (October 7, 1998). Liberty proposes to decrease the uniform stranded cost charge from a credit of 0.040 cents per kWh to a credit of 0.070 cents per kWh, for the period beginning May 1, 2019. Liberty also proposes to increase the reconciling adjustment mechanism from an average credit of 0.052 cents per kWh to an average credit of 0.035 cents per kWh due to lower over-collections.

Liberty's transmission service charge recovers costs billed to it through the Independent System Operator-New England (ISO-NE) Transmission, Markets and Services Tariff. The

transmission service charge is designed to recover estimated transmission costs for 2019, together with an adjustment factor to reconcile revenues and costs for the prior period. Liberty forecasts transmission costs and ISO-NE expenses to be approximately \$22.2 million in 2019. This forecast results in an average transmission rate of 2.414 cents per kWh, a decrease from the current average rate of 2.585 cents per kWh. The transmission adjustment factor will decrease from a charge of 0.557 cents per kWh to a charge of 0.162 cents per kWh due to lower under-collections.

Liberty also proposes a credit of 0.174 cents per kWh for excess proceeds from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auctions and proposes to remove the existing charge of 0.008 cents per kWh for lost distribution revenue due to net metering.

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/2019/19-062.html>.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to and whether Liberty appropriately calculated the various rates and adjustment factors, and whether the calculations result in just and reasonable rates, as required by RSA 374:2, and 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 April 23, 2019 at 1:30 pm; and it is

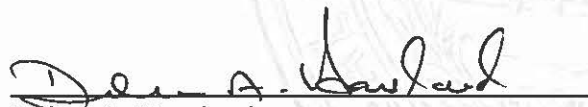
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Liberty shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of

Notice no later than April 15, 2019, 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 April 18, 2019; 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 April 18, 2019, 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. Rules Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before April 23, 2019.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this ninth day of April, 2019.


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.

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