

09/25/2020

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION****DG 20-152****LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP.
d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES-KEENE DIVISION****2020/2021 Winter Cost of Gas****ORDER OF NOTICE**

On September 17, 2020, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities-Keene Division (Liberty-Keene or the Company) submitted a Winter 2020/2021 cost of gas (COG) filing outlining its proposed COG and fixed price option (FPO) rates for the winter period (November 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021). In support of the Company's proposed rates, Liberty-Keene filed testimony, revised tariff pages, and schedules. The COG submission 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://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2020/20-152.html>.

Liberty-Keene's proposed winter 2020/2021 COG rate is \$1.2100 per therm, a \$0.3871 per therm increase compared to last winter's weighted average COG rate of \$0.8229 per therm for a residential customer. The proposed FPO rate is \$1.2300 per therm compared to last winter's FPO rate of \$0.9692 per therm. The Company bases this rate on the projected usage of both propane air and compressed natural gas (CNG) in Keene. The proposed change to Liberty-Keene's COG rate is expected to increase a residential heating customer's winter bill by approximately \$173, or 24 percent over the entire winter period. The proposed change in the COG rate is expected to increase a commercial customer's winter bill by approximately \$676 or 28 percent over the entire winter period.

The local delivery adjustment clause (LDAC) rate proposed as applicable to Liberty-Keene will be determined and implemented in a different Liberty Utilities COG proceeding: Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, Docket No. DG 20-141. Liberty's proposed LDAC rates for November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021 in Docket No. DG 20-141 are \$0.0603 per therm for residential customers and \$0.0549 per therm for commercial customers, compared to the \$0.0635 per therm and \$0.0494 per therm rates, respectively, currently in effect. The Liberty filing in Docket No. DG 20-141 is posted to the Commission's website at <http://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2020/20-141.html>.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to RSA 374:2 and RSA chapter 378, including: the justness and reasonableness of rates, fares, and charges; the forecasting of sales, supplier prices, and transportation prices; weather normalization; operational issues; the calculation of indirect gas costs; purchasing decisions related to current and past supplies; the reconciliation of prior period costs and revenues; the prudence and recovery of environmental remediation; and the calculation of the COG and FPO rates, including CNG demand and supply costs.

With the exception of CNG demand and supply costs, matters regarding the prudence of converting from propane air to natural gas in serving Keene, and the cost recovery of related costs, have been reserved for resolution in a Liberty distribution rate proceeding, or prudence review. *See* Order 26,305 (October 31, 2019, Docket No. 19-153) at 7-9.

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 consistent with Governor Christopher T. Sununu's Emergency Order #12, the Commission will hold a web-enabled remote hearing, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, on October 23, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Members of the public who wish to access the hearing may do so by clicking here: <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Calendar-Remote.html>.

If you have any difficulty obtaining access to this remote event, please notify the Commission by calling (603) 271-2431 as soon as possible. Parties will be provided with additional instructions prior to the hearing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Liberty-Keene, the Staff of the Commission, and any intervenors hold a web-enabled remote technical session to review the filing on October 6, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, and Puc 1604.03, Liberty-Keene shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than one business day after the date of issue. Publication shall be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before 1 p.m. on October 6, 2020. In addition, the Executive Director shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than one business day after the date of issue; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to Liberty-Keene and to the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 1, 2020 -- if such party wishes to have a decision on the petition prior to the technical session--or otherwise on or before October 19, 2020, such petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial

interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32. Pursuant to the secretarial letter issued on March 17, 2020, which is posted on the Commission's website at

<https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Secretarial%20Letters/20200317-SecLtr-Temp-Changes-in-Filing-Requirements.pdf>, any party seeking to intervene may elect to submit this filing in electronic form; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene filed on or before October 1, 2020, make said objection on or before 1 p.m. on October 5, 2020, and otherwise on or before October 23, 2020.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-fifth day of September, 2020.



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 - Docket Related

Docket#: 20-152

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