

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 22-035

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

Petition for Approval of Step Adjustment

Order Approving Further Adjustments to Distribution Rate Design

ORDER NO. 26,781

March 3, 2023

In this order, the Commission authorizes Liberty to integrate certain technical adjustments to its distribution rates, as requested following the Commission's issuance of Order No. 26,780 (March 1, 2023), which approved Liberty's proposed offset credit to distribution rates, associated with its investments placed in service in 2021.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 26, 2020, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty or the Company) filed a Settlement Agreement in Docket No. DE 19-064 (Settlement Agreement), the Company's most recent full distribution rate case, which contained a provision for three step adjustments for capital investments made in calendar years 2019, 2020, and 2021, effective on July 1 of 2020, 2021, and 2022 respectively, and subject to further review by the Commission. This Settlement Agreement was approved by the Commission on June 30, 2020, in Order No. 26,376.

Order No. 26,661 (July 29, 2022) and Order No. 26,780 outline the procedural history for the earlier phases of this proceeding, which followed Liberty's April 6, 2022, filing of its step adjustment petition for its 2021 investments. Order No. 26,780 approved, after a hearing, a further downward adjustment in the Company's

distribution revenue requirement of (\$575,083), to be applied as an offset credit to Liberty's distribution rates.

On March 2, 2023 (after Commission business hours), the Company filed a petition to make certain technical adjustments to its distribution rate refund structure associated with this matter, and to seek a waiver of the Commission filing requirement for illustrative tariff pages in connection with these changes. In its filing, the Company indicated that its proposal was reviewed by personnel of the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE), and that the DOE did not object to the revised rate calculations. No other responses to this filing have been made as of the date of this Order.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2022/22-035.html>

II. POSITIONS

A. Liberty

On March 2, 2023, Liberty filed a petition for the adjustment of its refund structure to distribution rates associated with this 2021 investment year step adjustment. With its filing, the Company provided a Technical Statement of Heather M. Tebbetts, and certain attachments providing supporting data. Interested persons are invited to read Ms. Tebbetts's Technical Statement, and attachments, for a full overview of the Company's proposal. In summary, the most recent update to the Company's distribution revenue requirement, approved in Order No. 26,780, which amounts to a downward revision of (\$575,083), would remain unchanged. However, to accommodate the five-month refund period of this revision (March 1, 2023 through

July 31, 2023), the Company would increase the refund percentage from the (1.21) percent approved in Order No. 26,780, to (2.94) percent as part of this proposal. See Technical Statement of Heather M. Tebbetts, March 2, 2023, at Bates Page 2. For a Liberty residential customer using an average of 650 kilowatt-hours of electricity monthly, this revised refund credit would result in a monthly reduction of total bills of (\$2.09), or (0.92) percent. *Id.* at Bates Page 9. The Company also requested a waiver of Commission rules pertaining to the illustrative Tariff filing requirements of N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603, with the proviso that a compliance Tariff filing would be made by the Company following any Commission approval of this proposal.

B. DOE

As indicated above, the DOE does not object to the Company's proposal.

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

Having reviewed the Company's proposal, we find that the technical revisions presented therein will produce an accurate and fair distribution rate refund structure, and we will therefore approve them as just, reasonable, and in the public interest. We will likewise approve the Company's waiver request pertaining to the illustrative Tariff filing requirements of Puc 1603.05, as being just, reasonable, and in the public interest, and likewise not disruptive to proceedings before the Commission. (For future waiver requests, we ask that the Company cite to provisions of Commission rules with greater specificity). We order that compliance Tariff pages be filed within 10 business days, or March 17, 2023. Also, we waive the 10-day objection period under Puc 203.07(e) in connection with the issuance of this Order. See Puc 201.05.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the revisions in rate design presented by Liberty's March 2, 2023, filing in this Docket No. DE 22-035, as implementing the offset credit to


distribution rates of (\$575,083) approved by Order No. 26,780 (March 1, 2023), are hereby APPROVED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Liberty is authorized to implement the rates approved herein on a service-rendered basis, effective March 1, 2023, for a five-month refund period, ending on July 31, 2023; and it is

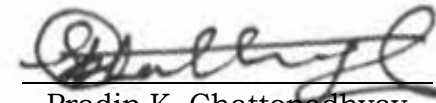
FURTHER ORDERED, that Liberty shall file tariff pages as required by N.H. Code Admin. R., Puc 1603 conforming to this order within ten business days, or March 17, 2023; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the illustrative Tariff filing requirements of N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603.05, and the ten-day objection period of N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.07(e), are hereby WAIVED, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 201.05.

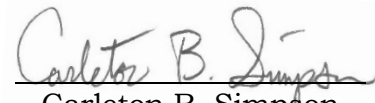
By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this third day of March, 2023.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-035

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