

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

Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp.  
d/b/a Liberty

2023-2024 Local Distribution Adjustment Charge (LDAC)

Docket No. DG 23-076

Technical Statement of Tyler J Culbertson & Adam R.M. Yusuf

January 12, 2024

**A. Purpose of Technical Statement**

On August 21, 2023, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. (“Liberty” or “the Company”) submitted its 2023/2024 Local Distribution Adjustment Charge (“LDAC”) filing, requesting new rates to be approved for effect on November 1, 2023 (“Initial Filing”). Per Commission Order *Nisi* No. 26,873 (Aug. 14, 2023), the Commission changed the effective date of the adjustments to most rate components of the LDAC from November 1, 2023 to February 1, 2024. Because of the short time between the August 14 date of Order No. 26,873 and the August 21 Initial Filing, and because Order No. 26,873 did not become effective until September 8, the Initial Filing maintained the previous effective date of November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024 consistent with the orders approving this year’s LDAC adjustments, Order Nos. 26,715 (Oct. 31, 2022) and 26,737 (Nov. 30, 2022), with the understanding that Liberty would update the Initial Filing on or before September 22, 2023 to comply with Order No. 26,873.

On September 22, 2023, the Company submitted an updated filing to provide for a February 1, 2024, effective date for most LDAC components (“September 22 Filing”).

The purpose of this technical statement is to provide an update of the September 22 Filing with actuals where available. Specifically, the Company replaced the September through November, 2023 estimates in the September 22 Filing with actuals.

**B. LDAC Rate**

The Summary Schedule contains the updated LDAC rates of \$0.1986 for residential customers and \$0.0874 for commercial and industrial customers. The total LDAC rates in the September 22 Filing were \$0.1921 for residential and \$0.0810 for commercial customers.

**C. Universal Updates**

The Company updated the estimated revenues on all schedules with actuals through November 2023, and the interest rates to reflect the applicable Federal Prime Rate. The Company updated references in the Summary Tab and Sch3 MGP Page 1 regarding the

carve out of the Relief Holder and Pond at Gas Street per Order No. 26,292 in Docket DG 22-045, to include the approval of recovery of Relief Holder and Pond at Gas Street per Order No. 26,934 in DG 22-045, dated on January 11, 2024.

#### D. Schedule 2 - Energy Efficiency (EE)

The Company updated the rate for residential customers to reflect the rate approved in Order No. 26,908 in Docket Nos. DE 23-068 and DE 23-098 which established the (EE) rate effective for January 1, 2024, to comply with House Bill 549. Of note, the Commercial rate forecasted in the September 22 Filing was equal to the approved rate, and therefore, it's unchanged in this filing.

#### E. Schedule 3 - Environmental Services (ES)

On Sch3 MGP Page 1, the estimated ending balance on Line 2 was updated to reflect actual revenues through the month of November 2023.

On Schedule 3, Page 2, the Company updated estimated revenues with actuals through the month of November 2023.

The MGP Surcharge increased from (\$0.0005) per therm in the September 22 Filing to \$0.0000 per therm due to the actual revenues coming in lower than the estimates.

The Gasholder Surcharge was unchanged, remaining at \$0.0006 per therm because collections are not effective until February 1 per Order 26, 934.

#### F. Schedule 4 - Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factor (RDAF)

On Schedule 4, Page 1, the outstanding uncollected balances were updated on Lines 1 and 6 to reflect the actual revenues through November 2023 from Page 2.

On Schedule 4, Page 2 the actual revenues were updated through November 2023. Of note, the only RDAF collections are attributable to prior period billings.

The RDAF surcharge for residential customers decreased from \$0.1058 per therm in the September 22 Filing to \$0.1052 per therm, while the surcharge for commercial customers decreased from \$0.0180 per therm in the September 22 Filing to \$0.0174 per therm as a result of the collections from prior period billings.

#### G. Schedule 5- Property Tax Adjustment Mechanism

On Schedule 5, Page 1, the projected (over)/under recovery balance was updated to reflect the actual revenues shown through November 2023, as shown on Page 2.

On Schedule 5, Page 2, the actual revenues were updated through November 2023. The Company also corrected the interest rates for the months of July through September 2023 as they were inadvertently input at 8.25% instead of the 8.00% for the quarterly Federal Prime Rate.

The PTAM Surcharge increased from \$0.0106 per therm in the September 22 Filing to \$0.0119 per therm due to actual revenues coming in lower than the estimates.

#### H. Schedule 6 - Rate Case Expenses

For Schedule 6, Page 1, the projected (over)/under recovery balance was updated to reflect the actual revenues through November 2023, which were updated on Page 2.

The RCE Surcharge increased from a credit of (\$0.0049) in the September 22 Filing to a credit of (\$0.0037) due to actual revenues coming in lower than the estimates.

**I. Schedule 7 - Gas Assistance Program (GAP)**

Schedule 7, Page 1, the Cost of Gas rates were updated with the effective rates through January 1, 2024 compared to September 1, 2023 rates in the Initial Filing. The projected (Over)/Under Recovery Balance was updated to reflect the actual revenues through November 2023, which were updated on Page 2.

On Schedule 7, Page 3, the Company inserted the most recent Quarterly GAP filing.

The GAP Surcharge increased from \$0.0106 per therm in the September 22 Filing to \$0.0147 per therm primarily due to an increase in the COG subsidies.

**J. Schedule 8- Customer Bill Impact**

For Schedule 8, the rates were updated to reflect the updates described above.