

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Liberty Utilities (Energy North Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty-Keene Division

Winter 2023/2024 Cost of Gas Filing

Docket No. DG 23-084

Motion for Rehearing of Order No. 26,900

NOW COMES the Office of the Consumer Advocate (“OCA”), a party to this docket, and moves for rehearing pursuant to RSA 541:3 of Order No. 26,900 (October 31, 2023) (“Order”), to the extent the Order approves a Fixed Price Option (“FPO”) for customers subject to the Order. In support of this request, the OCA states as follows:

On October 31, 2023, the Commission via Order No. 26,900 approved cost-of-gas rates, applicable to the winter period commencing on November 1, 2023, for customers of the Keene Division of Liberty Utilities (Energy North Natural Gas Corp.), referred to herein as the “Keene Division.” The rates are subject to monthly adjustment to account for fluctuation in the Keene Division’s fuel and transportation costs, of which the utility has little or no control and as to which the utility recovers no profit. The Commission also approved a Fixed-Price Option, which allows residential customers the opportunity to lock in a specific price per therm for the gas supply portion of the monthly bill from November 1 through April

30, regardless of market price fluctuations. With respect to the Fixed Price Option, the Commission ruled that “because the program is described in Liberty’s tariff and has already been offered to customers this year, it should not be withdrawn absent further processes to consider such a change on a prospective basis.” Order at 5.

On November 28, 2023, the OCA filed a timely motion for rehearing of Order No. 26,898, entered by the Commission on October 31, 2023 in Docket No. DG 23-076, the companion cost-of-gas docket applicable to customers of Liberty Utilities (Energy North Natural Gas Corp.) outside of the Keene Division. The OCA motion in Docket No. DG 23-076, a copy of which is attached to this pleading, is incorporated herein by reference. For the reasons stated by the OCA in Docket No. DG 23-076, the Commission should grant rehearing in this docket pursuant to RSA 541:3, direct the subject utility to withdraw its Fixed Price Option as offered in the Keene Division, notify customers at the Company’s expense in the manner requested by the OCA, and recommend that Liberty not propose any similar program for future winter seasons. The public interest requires the Commission to make the same ruling in this docket as it makes in DG 23-076.

WHEREFORE, the OCA respectfully request that this honorable Commission:

- A. Grant rehearing of Order No. 26,900 pursuant to RSA 541:3, and
- B. Enter a new order cancelling the proposed Fixed Price Option as proposed by the subject utility for the 2023-24 winter season, as described above, and

C. Grant such further relief as shall be necessary and proper in the circumstances.

Sincerely,



Donald M. Kreis
Consumer Advocate
Office of the Consumer Advocate
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 18
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-1174
donald.m.kreis@oca.nh.gov

November 28, 2023

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of this pleading was provided via electronic mail to the individuals included on the Commission's service list for this docket.



Donald M. Kreis