

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DE 25-009**

**LIBERTY UTILITIES (GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC) CORP. d/b/a LIBERTY AND  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

**Joint Petition to Alter Franchise Areas in the Town of Windham**

**COMMENCEMENT OF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING  
AND NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

On January 31, 2025, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) (together, the Joint Petitioners) filed a petition requesting that the Commission approve a modification of their franchise areas in Windham, New Hampshire to transfer a lot in Eversource's franchise area to Liberty's franchise area. In support of their petition, the Joint Petitioners filed Attachment A, showing the Joint Petitioners' proposed adjustment to their franchise boundaries, and Attachment B, showing the location of the Joint Petitioners' existing facilities. All docket filings, other than any information subject to confidential treatment, are available on the Commission's website at [www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2025/25-009.html](http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2025/25-009.html).

**I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

The Joint Petitioners have agreed to modify their franchise areas to provide electric service to a customer on Ryan Farm Road in Windham (the Property). Petition (Pet.), at 1, ¶¶ 7-8, 11. Although the Property is currently within Eversource's franchise area, Eversource cannot provide service to the Property without constructing a new line that crosses a transmission line corridor operated by National Grid. *Id.*, ¶ 5; Attachment B. National Grid has not granted Eversource the rights necessary to do so. Pet., ¶ 5.

As shown in Attachment B, Liberty could provide service to the Property without crossing this transmission corridor. *See also* Pet., ¶ 6. The Joint Petitioners asserted that, unless they are permitted to change their franchise boundaries so that the Property is within Liberty's franchise area, the customer owning the Property will be unable to obtain electric service. *Id.*, ¶ 10. According to the Joint Petitioners, this customer has agreed to the franchise boundary change and to contribute the amount necessary under Liberty's tariff to have service extended to the Property. *See id.*, ¶¶ 7, 14. The Joint Petitioners requested that the Commission grant their petition without a hearing. *Id.*, ¶ 14.

## **II. ISSUES PRESENTED**

The filing presents, *inter alia*, the following issue: whether modification of Liberty's and Eversource's franchise areas to transfer the Property to Liberty's franchise area would be for the public good and thus permissible under RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26. Accordingly, an adjudicative proceeding will be convened to address this issue.

The Commission will be conducting the prehearing conference and any hearings scheduled in this matter in person. The Commission will consider requests to conduct hearings using a hybrid format to permit remote participation by a specific individual only if the Commission has determined that a sufficient reason has been provided for why that individual would be unable to attend in person. Any party requesting that a specific individual be permitted to participate remotely should file a written request with the Commission's Clerk's Office no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the prehearing conference or hearing date. If the Commission determines that one or more individuals will be permitted to appear remotely, then individuals in the Commission's

hearing room, including the Commissioners, will be broadcast on a web-enabled platform.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that an adjudicative proceeding be commenced for the purpose of reviewing and resolving the foregoing issues pursuant to RSA chapter 541-A, RSA 374:22, RSA 374:26, and the Commission's procedural rules; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Commission will hold a prehearing conference, pursuant to Puc 204.07, at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on April 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., at which each party should be prepared to address any of the issues set forth in Puc 204.07; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Joint Petitioners shall circulate a Structuring Statement to the parties on or before April 1, 2025 and file the Structuring Statement with the Commission no later than April 9, 2025;

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the New Hampshire Department of Energy is requested to file its position regarding the Joint Petitioners' petition, including the reasons for this position, with a recommendation regarding whether the Commission should resolve this matter by issuing an order *nisi*, on or before March 27, 2025; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that during the prehearing conference, the Commission will consider the matters listed in Puc 204.07(f), including the establishment of a procedural schedule governing the remainder of the proceeding. Parties and potential parties are encouraged to facilitate the development of a procedural schedule by conferring prior to the prehearing conference, so that the presiding officer can address any matters on which there is disagreement during the prehearing conference; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, immediately following the prehearing conference, the Joint Petitioners shall make appropriate personnel available for the parties to hold a technical session to review the filing; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any entity or individual may petition to intervene and seek to be admitted as a party in this proceeding. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, consistent with RSA 541-A:32, Puc 204.08, and Puc 203.06, any entity or individual seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to the Joint Petitioners and any other parties on the service list, on or before March 21, 2025. The petition shall state the facts demonstrating how the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with Puc 204.08; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before March 31, 2025; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the parties may submit a stipulation containing a discovery schedule, statement of any additional issues not identified in this order of notice, and at least three dates on which they would be available for a final hearing in this matter, including how much time will be required, with a request that the prehearing conference and technical session be cancelled, on or before April 9, 2025. The Commission may cancel the prehearing conference and technical session upon approval of such a stipulation; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that parties shall file any additional supporting documentation they wish to be considered, including verification that the owner of the Property assents to the requested franchise boundary change, details of the requested

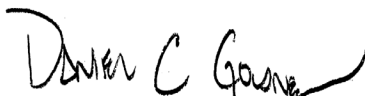
service extension, and details supporting Liberty's proposed extension in accordance with the Commission's administrative rules. Any evidence on which an order *nisi* would be based should be verified under oath or affirmation, see RSA 365:14, and the Joint Petitioners are requested to file a verification as to the accuracy of the facts contained in the petition and attachments. Parties may elect to submit any filing in electronic form unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Filings will be considered filed as of the time the electronic copy is received by the Commission; and it is

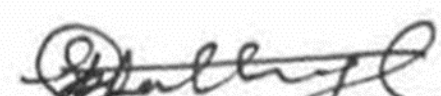
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that routine procedural inquiries may be made by contacting the Commission's Clerk's Office at (603) 271-2431 or [ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov](mailto:ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov). All requests to the Commission should be made in a written pleading filed with the Commission. Unless otherwise authorized by law, *ex parte* communications are prohibited; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 204.04, the Joint Petitioners shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on their websites no later than two business days after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before March 14, 2025. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than two business days after the date of issue; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any hearings in this matter shall be conducted in accordance with the attached hearing guidelines.

So ordered, this fifth day of March, 2025.

  
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Daniel C. Goldner  
Chairman

  
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Pradip K. Chattopadhyay  
Commissioner

  
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Mark W. Dell'Orfano  
Commissioner

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the 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#: 25-009

Printed: 3/5/2025

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