

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 20-040

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

Annual Retail Rate Adjustment Filing

ORDER OF NOTICE

On March 27, 2020, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed a request for approval of annual retail rate adjustments related to its stranded cost charge and transmission service charge. Liberty calculates that the impact of the rate changes for a residential customer using 650 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month would be a monthly bill decrease of \$0.25, a 0.22 percent decrease from current average monthly bills. The decrease is due primarily to lower prior under-collections to be recovered through the proposed transmission service charge, which offset an increase in projected transmission costs.

Liberty's stranded cost charge recovers a contract termination charge from New England Power Company (NEP) for termination of an all-requirements power contract prior to the advent of retail competition in Liberty's service territory. The Commission approved the recovery mechanism in Order No. 23,041 (October 7, 1998). Liberty proposes to maintain the current uniform stranded cost charge, which is a credit of 0.070 cents per kWh for the period beginning May 1, 2020. Liberty also proposes to change the stranded cost adjustment factor from a credit of 0.035 cents per kWh to a credit of 0.002 cents per kWh due to lower over-collections.

Liberty's transmission service charge recovers costs billed to it through the Independent System Operator-New England Transmission, Markets and Services Tariff. The transmission service charge is designed to recover estimated transmission costs for 2020, together with an

adjustment for over- or under-recoveries that occurred during the prior period. Liberty forecasts transmission costs to be approximately \$23.2 million in 2020. This forecast results in an average transmission charge of 2.545 cents per kWh, an increase from the current average charge of 2.414 cents per kWh. The transmission service cost adjustment will decrease from a charge of 0.162 cents per kWh to a credit of 0.023 cents per kWh due to lower under-collections.

Liberty also proposes a credit of 0.152 cents per kWh for excess proceeds from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auctions.

The petition 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://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2020/20-040.html>.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether Liberty appropriately calculated the various rates and adjustment factors; and whether the calculations result in just and reasonable rates, as required by RSA 378:5 and :7. 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 April 27, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. Members of the public who wish to access the hearing may do so by registering at the following link:

<https://nhgov.webex.com/nhgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e29b345cca4f4b9bd11b56145575d664d>

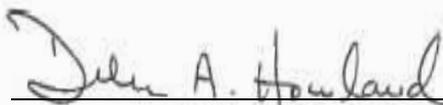
If you have any difficulty obtaining access to this remote event, please notify the Commission by calling (603) 271-2431 as soon as possible. Parties will be provided with additional instructions prior to the hearing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, Liberty 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 day after the date of issue. In addition, the Executive Director shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than one 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 and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before April 22, 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. 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 make said objection on or before April 27, 2020.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this ninth day of April, 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# : 20-040

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