

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

DG 16-447

**LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP.
d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES**

Managed Expansion Program Rate Case

Order Suspending Proposed Tariff and Scheduling Prehearing Conference

ORDER NO. 25,893

May 6, 2016

In this Order, the Commission suspends a proposed Liberty tariff for Managed Expansion Program Rates to enable further investigation of the proposed tariff provisions.

On April 15, 2016, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Liberty”) filed tariffs for Managed Expansion Program Rates with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”). Liberty’s proposed new tariff would be available to all potential customers who require a main extension to initiate service. The tariff would add a premium to Liberty’s regular distribution rates for a period of years, in effect allowing a new customer to pay over time most or all of any required costs of construction for the main extension.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to: whether the proposed rates and tariffs are just and reasonable under RSA Chapter 378 and RSA 374:2; whether the proposal by Liberty will seek to foster orderly expansion of Liberty’s system, for the benefit of Liberty customers, and whether the tariff proposal properly guards against cross-subsidization.

Under RSA 378:3, tariff changes take effect after 30 days’ notice to the Commission and to the public, subject to the Commission’s ability to suspend such changes when an investigation

is appropriate, pursuant to RSA 378:6, I (b). Here, Liberty's proposed tariff provisions require further investigation, so we suspend the proposed tariff pages filed by Liberty pending our investigation for a period of 3 months, or until August 5, 2016, when the Commission may extend the suspension for 5 months if more time is needed, pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b).

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://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2016/16-447.html>. 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 the proposed tariff pages regarding main extensions filed by Liberty, are hereby suspended pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b), through August 5, 2016, pending investigation and further order of the Commission; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on May 27, 2016, at 1:30 pm, at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Liberty, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow Liberty to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

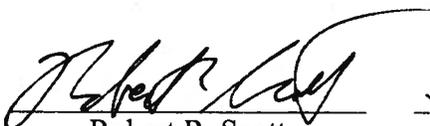
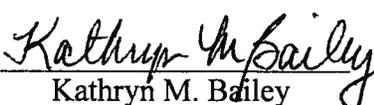
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to Puc 203.12, Liberty shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order no later than May 13, 2016, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations

are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before May 25, 2016; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Liberty and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before May 25, 2016, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before May 27, 2016.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this sixth day of May, 2016.

 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> Martin P. Honigberg Chairman	 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> Robert R. Scott Commissioner	 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> Kathryn M. Bailey Commissioner
---	--	--

Attested by:



 Debra A. Howland
 Executive Director