

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

DE 12-347

GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A LIBERTY UTILITIES

2012 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan

ORDER OF NOTICE

On December 3, 2012, Granite State Electric Company d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed its 2012 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan (LCIRP) with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) pursuant to RSA 378:37 and Order No. 25,370 (May 30, 2012) in Docket No. DG 11-040. 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/2012/12-347.html>.

RSA 378:38 provides that each LCIRP shall include, but not be limited to: a forecast of future electrical demand for the utility's service area; an assessment of demand-side energy management programs, including conservation, efficiency improvement and load management programs; an assessment of supply options; an assessment of transmission requirements; provision for diversity of supply sources; integration of demand-side and supply-side options; an assessment of plan integration an impact on state compliance with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the National Energy Policy Act of 1992; and an assessment of the plan's long- and short-term environmental, economic and energy price and supply impact on the state. Liberty has requested a waiver, pursuant to RSA 378:38-a, of the requirement for Liberty

to file materials described in RSA 378:38 related to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the National Energy Policy Act of 1992.

In its filing, Liberty describes the following items: 1) the processes it uses to ensure that its transmission and distribution systems are maintained to meet both state and federal requirements; 2) the energy markets currently administered by the Independent System Operator-New England and how the markets are being structured to procure adequate supply and demand resources to meet reliability objectives at the lowest cost; 3) the transmission and distribution planning processes that Liberty has adopted to ensure reliable operations of the electric grid; 4) the role of demand response and distributed generation resources in the electric markets and how Liberty incorporates such resources into its transmission and distribution planning processes; and 5) Liberty's participation in the State's CORE energy efficiency programs and how they interrelate to Liberty's resource planning.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether Liberty's planning process is adequate as defined by the requirements set forth in RSA 378:38 and 378:39 and whether the waiver requested pursuant to RSA 378:38-a is to be granted. 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 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 10, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., 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 shall be considered; and it is

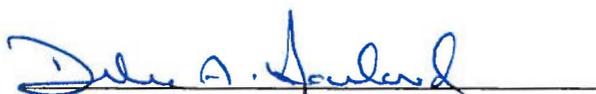
FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Liberty, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to develop a procedural schedule for this proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Liberty shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than April 24, 2013, 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 6, 2013; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, 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 6, 2013, 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 N.H. Code Admin. Rule 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 10, 2013.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this nineteenth day of April, 2013.



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 - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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Docket #: 12-347-1 Printed: April 19, 2013

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:
DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.