

09/09/2020

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 20-141

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

2020/2021 Cost of Gas and LDAC

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 1, 2020, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty or the Company) submitted a Winter 2020/2021 and Summer 2021 cost of gas (COG) filing outlining its proposed COG and fixed price option (FPO) rates for the winter period (November 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021) and the summer period (May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021), including proposed local distribution adjustment charges (LDAC) for the period of November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020. In support of the Company's proposed rates, Liberty filed testimony, revised tariff pages, and schedules. The COG submission 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/2020/20-141.html>.

The proposed winter 2020/2021 residential COG rate is \$0.5571 per therm (FPO rate \$0.5771 per therm), a \$0.0939 per therm increase compared to last winter's weighted average residential COG rate of \$0.4632 per therm. The proposed changes to Liberty's residential COG rate and LDAC charges are expected to increase a residential heating customer's winter bill by approximately \$91, or 11.5 percent over the entire winter period.

The proposed winter 2020/2021 commercial and industrial (C&I) high winter use COG rate is \$0.5552 per therm, and the proposed C&I low winter use COG rate is \$0.5660 per therm. The changes in the COG rates for high and low winter users are expected to increase C&I customers' winter bills approximately 11 to 13 percent over the entire winter period. The proposed firm transportation winter COG rate is \$0.0001 per therm compared to last year's rate of \$0.0009 per therm.

The proposed summer COG rate for 2021 is \$0.3148 per therm for residential customers, a \$0.0282 per therm decrease compared to last summer's weighted average residential COG rate of \$0.3430 per therm. The proposed changes to Liberty's residential COG rate and LDAC charges are expected to decrease a residential heating customer's summer bill by approximately \$1.61, or 0.7 percent over the entire summer period.

Liberty proposes summer 2021 COG rates of \$0.3109 per therm for C&I high winter use customers and \$0.31990 per therm for C&I low winter use customers, which are both decreases from the 2020 summer rates.

A variety of components makes up the proposed LDAC charges of \$0.0603 per therm for residential customers and \$0.0549 per therm for C&I customers, compared to the \$0.06350 per therm and \$0.0494 per therm rates, respectively, currently in effect. The proposed charge to recover environmental remediation costs is \$0.0197 per therm, compared to the \$0.0153 per therm rate currently in effect. The proposed energy efficiency and conservation charge is \$0.0831 per therm for residential customers and \$0.0441 for C&I customers, compared to the respective \$0.0640 per therm and \$0.0426 per therm rates currently in effect. The proposed revenue decoupling adjustment factor is a credit of \$0.0549 per therm for residential customers

and \$0.0213 per therm for C&I customers, compared to the respective 0.0298 and 0.0225 per therm rates currently in effect. The proposed charge to recover expenses and lost revenues related to the gas assistance program (GAP), formerly known as the residential low income assistance program (RLIAP), is \$0.0121 per therm, compared to the \$0.0123 per therm rate currently in effect. The proposed rate case expense factor is a charge of \$0.0002 per therm, compared to the \$0.0017 per therm currently in effect.

Liberty is updating its Company Allowance (for lost and unaccounted for gas and Company use of gas) from 1.9 to 1.6 percent. Liberty also proposes changes to its supplier balancing charges, peaking demand charges, capacity allocator percentages, and short-term borrowing limits.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 374:2 and RSA chapter 378, including: the justness and reasonableness of rates the forecasting of sales, supplier prices, and transportation prices; weather normalization; the calculation of indirect gas costs; purchasing decisions related to current and past supplies; capacity and revenue projections related to transportation services and released capacity; the reconciliation of prior period costs and revenues; and the prudence and recovery of environmental remediation. 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 October 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Members of the public who wish to access the hearing may do so by clicking here: <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Calendar->

[Remote.html](#). **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

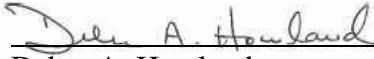
FURTHER ORDERED, that Liberty, the Staff of the Commission, and any intervenors hold a web-enabled remote technical session to review the filing on September 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, and Puc 1604.03, 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 business 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 business 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 to the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before September 17, 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 September 23, 2020.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this ninth day of September, 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#: 20-141

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