

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 23-067

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

Request for Change in Distribution Rates

**Procedural Order Re: Liberty Motion for Order *Nisi*; Hearing on Temporary Rates;
and Liberty Submittal of Recalculated Temporary Rate Schedules**

By procedural order dated September 27, 2023, the Commission scheduled a hearing on temporary rates in the above-captioned matter for October 27, 2023. On September 28, 2023, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed a jointly-proposed procedural schedule for the Commission's consideration, with the concurrence of Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA). This jointly-proposed procedural schedule contemplates, among other features, the filing of DOE Testimony on October 20, 2023 regarding the proposed settlement on temporary rates filed in this proceeding, and a hearing on temporary rates on October 27, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., as scheduled by the Commission on September 27.

Also on September 28, 2023, Liberty filed a motion for the Commission issuance of an Order *Nisi* approving Liberty's temporary rate proposal with an effective date of October 1, 2023 (Motion). As an alternative request for relief, Liberty's Motion requests that the Commission provide for an effective date of November 1, 2023 for temporary rates by the inclusion of revenues that would have been recovered in October 2023, had the Liberty request for temporary rates been approved as of October 1, with recovery of the full settlement-proposed revenue requirement of \$8,706,258 through the period of November

1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, if approved. Motion at 6-7. (No indication of the positions of the DOE or OCA regarding the Motion was made by Liberty).

Having reviewed the jointly-proposed procedural schedule presented by the DOE with the concurrence of Liberty and the OCA, and the Motion, the Commission makes the following rulings. We concur that, subject to review and hearing, the approach delineated by Liberty as an alternative form of relief requested in its Motion is reasonable, insofar as the recovery of the proposed settlement revenue requirement for temporary rates could be effectuated over a slightly shorter recovery period (of November 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024).

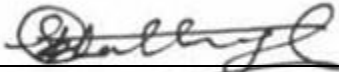
To that end, we order Liberty to re-submit its proposed rate schedules for temporary rates incorporating the proposed settlement revenue requirement of \$8,706,258 for a proposed recovery period of November 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024 no later than October 16, 2023. We DENY Liberty's request, provided in the Motion, for issuance of an Order *Nisi* approving the proposal on temporary rates with an effective date of October 1, 2023, as we rule that such an approach would not be in the public interest, due to the need for further Commission review of the proposed settlement terms for temporary rates, and the need for a public hearing regarding this matter.

Therefore, the hearing on temporary rates in this proceeding shall remain scheduled for October 27, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., and the DOE shall file its Testimony regarding the temporary rates settlement proposal by October 20, 2023, as contemplated in the jointly-proposed procedural schedule offered by the parties. The Commission does not rule on the other features of the jointly-proposed procedural schedule at this time; such a ruling shall be made in a forthcoming Prehearing Order that will be issued by the Commission in this docket in early October.

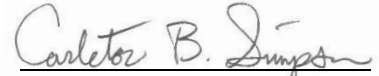
So ordered, this 29th day of September, 2023.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 23-067

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