

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

DE 16-383

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

Distribution Rate Case Step Adjustment

ORDER OF NOTICE

On March 16, 2018, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed a distribution rate adjustment for effect June 1, 2018. The filing was made pursuant to a settlement agreement approved in Docket No. DE 16-383, Liberty's most recent distribution rate case. *See* Order No. 26,005 (April 12, 2017).

The settlement agreement limited the 2018 annual step increase to total budgeted spending of \$2.4 million. Although Liberty exceeded the budgeted amount by completing work originally scheduled for 2018, Liberty said the step adjustment would be limited to \$2.4 million. The revenue requirement associated with \$2.4 million is \$316,404. Liberty requested that this adjustment to rates be effective on a service-rendered basis as of June 1, 2018.

The settlement agreement also allowed Liberty to recover all actual rate case expenses through distribution rates from May 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. The Commission's Audit Division conducted an audit of rate case expenses and found that actual costs exceed the original estimate by \$48,039. Liberty requested that the additional expense be recovered with rates effective June 1, 2018 to allow full recovery of rate case expense by December 31, 2018.

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/2016/16-383.html>.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the amount of the step adjustment is appropriately calculated and results in just and reasonable rates pursuant to 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 a Hearing, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.152, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on May 9, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.; 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 25, 2018, 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 7, 2018; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules 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 7, 2018, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before May 9, 2018.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this nineteenth day of
April, 2018.



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.