

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 14-216

ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES

**2017 Core Electric Energy Efficiency Programs
and Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Programs**

Order Suspending Proposed Tariffs and Scheduling a Prehearing Conference

ORDER NO. 25,948

September 30, 2016

On September 26, 2016, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, and Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (collectively, the Electric Utilities); together with Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities and Northern Utilities, Inc. (collectively, the Gas Utilities) jointly filed proposals for the 2017 Core New Hampshire Energy Efficiency Programs and related tariffs for approval by the Commission. The proposals, tariffs 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/2014/14-216.html>.

Funding for the Core electric energy efficiency programs is provided through the System Benefits Charge (SBC) paid by the Electric Utilities' customers and is supplemented by funds available through the Independent System Operator-New England's Forward Capacity Market and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Funding for the Core natural gas energy efficiency programs is provided through the Local Delivery Adjustment Clause (LDAC) paid by the Gas Utilities' customers. Any unspent funds from prior program years for both the Electric Utilities

and Gas Utilities are carried forward to the following year's budget, including interest based on the prime rate. The proposed Core electric and gas energy efficiency programs are designed to be consistently available across New Hampshire with equal access for any eligible customer, subject to the available budget.

The Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities seek program approval in accordance with the Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission in Order 25,932 (August 2, 2016), wherein the Commission approved the extension of the Core program through 2017, subject to Commission approval of the specific program proposals. Consistent with the Settlement Agreement, the Electric Utilities propose changes to the SBC to recover the cost of the 2017 Core programs, performance incentives and lost base revenues. The Gas Utilities seek recovery of the 2017 program costs, performance incentives and lost base revenues through the LDAC which is under review in each gas utilities' Cost of Gas proceeding.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 374-F:3, X and whether the proposed 2017 Core programs are reasonable, cost effective, and in the public interest; whether the proposed programs will properly utilize funds from the Energy Efficiency Fund as required by RSA 125-O:23; and whether, pursuant to RSA 374:2, the Electric Utilities' and Gas Utilities' proposed calculations of performance incentives and lost base revenues are just and reasonable and comply with Commission orders. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

We will suspend the proposed tariffs filed on September 26 to allow them to be investigated pursuant to RSA 378:6, I (b). In the absence of such suspension, the tariff amendments would become effective 30 days after filing under RSA 378:3.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the proposed tariffs are hereby suspended pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b) 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 October 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the application 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, Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities, the Staff of the Commission, and any intervenors hold a technical session to review the proposals and tariffs and allow the Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities to provide any amendments or updates to the filing; and it is

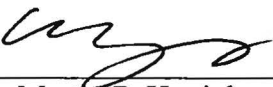
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order no later than October 11, 2016, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before October 21, 2016; 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 the Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 18, 2016, such petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest

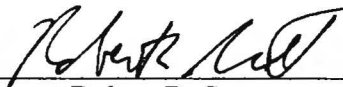
may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before October 24, 2016.

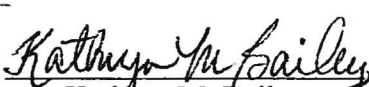
By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirtieth day of September, 2016.



Martin P. Honigberg
Chairman

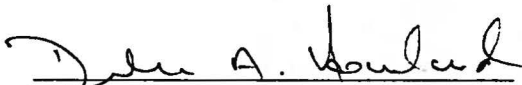


Robert R. Scott
Commissioner



Kathryn M. Bailey
Commissioner

Attested by:



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director