STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DG 17-191

Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities – Keene Division Standard Heat Content Value

Order Suspending Proposed Tariff

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December 21, 2017

In this Order, the Commission suspends a proposed Liberty-Keene tariff provision for the calculation of standard heat content value for the categories of gas sold to Liberty-Keene customers.

On November 22, 2017, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities-Keene Division ("Liberty-Keene") filed tariff changes for the calculation of the standard heat content value for propane-air and natural gas to be sold to Liberty-Keene customers. Liberty-Keene also asked for a waiver of the 30-day notice period of N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603.07(a)(1) so that the tariff changes could take effect immediately. The tariff changes were filed in anticipation of Liberty-Keene offering natural gas alongside its existing provision of propane-air gas. The tariff is needed because natural gas and propane-air gas differ in heat content.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission's website at http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2017/17-191.html.

This filing raises, <u>inter alia</u>, issues related to: whether the proposed tariff is just and reasonable under RSA Chapter 378, RSA 374:1, and RSA 374:2; and whether the tariff proposal will ensure consistent quality of service, and fair and accurate billing, for Liberty-Keene customers.

Here, Liberty-Keene's proposed tariff provisions warrant further investigation, and so we suspend the proposed tariff pages filed by the Company pending our investigation for a period of 3 months, or until March 22, 2018, pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b).

The Commission may extend the suspension for an additional 5 months if more time is needed. *Id.* Also, because we are suspending the tariff, we deny Liberty-Keene's waiver request as moot. A prehearing conference may be scheduled in the near future, pursuant to an Order of Notice.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the proposed tariff page regarding the standard heat content value of gas sold by Liberty-Keene is hereby SUSPENDED pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b), through March 22, 2018, pending investigation and further order of the Commission, and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Liberty-Keene's waiver request is DENIED.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-first day of December, 2017.

Martin P. Honigberg Kathup M. Bailey Michael S. Giaimo Chairman Commissioner Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra a Hondand Debra A. Howland

Executive Director