

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

DG 14-180

Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities

Distribuion Service Rate Case

PETITION FOR INTERVENTION

NOW COME HotZero, LLC (HotZero) and hereby petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission for intervention on a late-filed basis in the above-captioned proceeding pursuant to RSA 541-A:32 and NH Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17. In support of its Petition for Intervention, Petitioner says the following:

1. On June 6, 2014, Iberdrola USA Enterprises, Inc. (Iberdrola) and Liberty Utilities, through its EnergyNorth Natural Gas (EnergyNorth) subsidiary, filed a petition for approval for Iberdrola to transfer its stock interests in New Hampshire Gas Corporation (NHGC) to EnergyNorth. As part of its filing, EnergyNorth included a summary of a rate plan it intends to propose following the transfer of NHGC to EnergyNorth.
2. On August 1, 2014, Liberty Utilities filed a request for an increase in permanent rates. In Joint Testimony submitted by Steven E. Mullen and Howard S. Gorman, Liberty indicated that it may update its request in this Docket to include proposed rates for NHGC customers in Keene that would take effect after the closing of the transaction contemplated in DG 14-155. See Docket No. DG 14-180, Direct Testimony of S. Mullen and H. Gorman at p. 27, lines 6-9.
3. Petitions for Intervention, pursuant to RSA 541-A:32 and Rule Puc 203.17, must set for the facts demonstrating that the petitioner's right's, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, and that the interest of justice and the prompt and orderly conduct of the proceedings would not be impaired by allowing the intervention. Alternatively, the Commission may grant intervention in the interest of justice so long as the intervention would not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings." RSA 541-A:32, II.
4. HotZero is a New Hampshire-based company formed in 2013 to lower heating costs in New Hampshire through the development of hot water district energy systems (HWDES). HotZero has been actively in discussions with the City of Keene as well as potential customers on the development of a HWDES in the City of Keene.
5. NHGC customers currently pay higher costs of gas and higher delivery rates than current customers of Liberty Utilities. Based on testimony filed in Docket 14-155, Liberty Utilities has indicated that, if it is permitted to acquire NHGC, it is considering asking the Commission to approve reducing rates for its customers in Keene by blending the cost of gas and delivery rates of NHGC with those of Liberty – in other words, by raising those rates for non-Keene customers of Liberty. Approval of such a proposal could have significant consequences for competition for heating services in Keene.

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6. HotZero did not previously intervene in this proceeding as it was unaware until October 2, 2014 of the reservation of rights by Liberty to update its request in this Docket to include NHGC customers. For the foregoing reasons, should Liberty update its rate request in this Docket to include NHGC, HotZero would have substantial interests that will be affected by the Commission's deliberations in this proceeding. HotZero is prepared to limit its intervention to matters involving rates to NHGC customers; therefore, the prompt and orderly conduct of the proceedings would not be impaired by allowing the intervention.

WHEREFORE, HotZero hereby respectfully requests the Commission to grant it intervener party status and to order such other and further relief as may be just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,
HotZero, LLC
By its Managing Director,
s/Michael E. Jesanis

Dated: October 14, 2014

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Certification of Service

Pursuant to Rules Puc 203.02(2) and Puc 203.11, I have served copy of this petition on each person identified on the commission's service list for this docket.

s/Michael E. Jesanis