

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 16-873

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

Petition to Approve Tariff Change for Rate G-1 Customers Pursuant to Puc 903.02(p)

Order Suspending Tariff Amendment and Scheduling a Hearing

ORDER NO. 25,981

January 26, 2017

In this Order, the Commission suspends a tariff amendment filed by Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Liberty”) in connection with its petition to approve a tariff change for Rate G-1 customers pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 903.02(p), which would establish a methodology for billing net-metered customers under the time-of-use provisions of Rate G-1. Pursuant to Puc 903.02(p), the Commission will hold a hearing on the proposed tariff amendment on February 16, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

On December 29, 2016, Liberty filed a petition to approve a tariff change for Rate G-1 customers that would establish a methodology for billing net-metered customer-generators taking service under Rate G-1. The petition explains that the tariff change is required to permit net metering by customer-generators with systems of 100 kilowatts (kW) or less. The petition was filed with the supporting testimony of Liberty Utility Analyst Heather M. Tebbetts, and also with a proposed amended page 10 of Liberty’s tariff, NHPUC No. 19, in both annotated and clean versions. In its petition, Liberty explained that Rate G-1 customers pay time-based distribution charges, with different time-of-use rates charged for on-peak periods, defined as Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily, and for off-peak periods, defined as Monday-Friday from 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., all day Saturday, Sunday, and specified holidays. Liberty has proposed that

Rate G-1 customers with renewable energy resources be permitted to net meter in the same manner as other customers not subject to time-based tariffs, with any kW hour (kWh) exported during on-peak hours credited to on-peak imported kWh in the customer's future bills, and any kWh exported during off-peak hours credited to off-peak imported kWh in the customer's future bills.

Liberty's petition, supporting testimony, and revised tariff page, as well as subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested or granted, are posted to the Commission's website at

<http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2016/16-873.html>.

This filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to the Commission's review and approval, after notice and hearing, of a utility-specific methodology by which customer-generators may be provided service under time-based net energy metering tariffs, provided that the resulting rates are just and reasonable, in accordance with Puc 903.02(p) and RSA 362-A:9, VIII and XI(b).

We will suspend Liberty's proposed tariff amendment to allow the filing to be investigated pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b), and schedule a hearing for February 16, 2017. In the absence of such suspension, the tariff amendment might be deemed to become effective 30 days after filing under RSA 378:3. 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 Liberty's proposed tariff amendment relating to the methodology for billing net-metered customers under its Rate G-1 on page 10, be and hereby is suspended under RSA 378:6, I(b), to allow the filing to be investigated; and it is

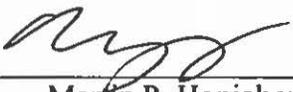
FURTHER ORDERED, that a hearing, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, be held before the Commission located at 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on February 16, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, pursuant to Puc 203.12, the Executive Director shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order on the Commission's website upon its issuance; and it is

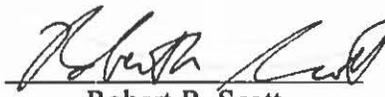
FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a petition to intervene with copies sent to Liberty and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before February 13, 2017, such petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as would be required by Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before February 16, 2017.

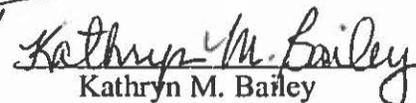
By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-sixth day of January, 2017.



Martin P. Honigberg
Chairman

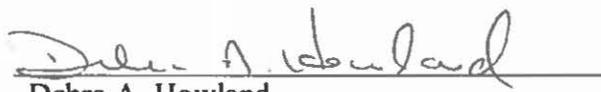


Robert R. Scott
Commissioner



Kathryn M. Bailey
Commissioner

Attested by:



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES- DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11(a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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Docket #: 16-873-1 Printed: January 26, 2017

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:**
- DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.**
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.**