

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DG 18-137

LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP.  
d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES

2018/2019 COST OF GAS

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 4, 2018, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty, or the Company) submitted a Winter 2018/2019 and Summer 2019 cost of gas (COG) filing outlining its proposed COG and fixed price option (FPO) rates for the winter period (November 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019), the summer period (May 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019), and proposed local delivery adjustment clause (LDAC) charges for the period of November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019. Liberty filed testimony, revised tariff pages, and schedules in support of the proposed rates. The COG submission 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://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2018/18-137.html>.

The proposed winter 2018/2019 residential COG rate is \$0.7411 per therm (FPO rate \$0.7611 per therm), a \$0.0090 per therm increase compared to last winter's weighted average residential COG rate of \$0.7321 per therm. The proposed changes to Liberty's residential COG rate and LDAC charges are expected to increase a residential heating customer's winter bill by approximately \$4, or 1 percent.

The proposed winter 2018/2019 commercial and industrial (C&I) high winter use COG rate is \$0.7403 per therm and the proposed C&I low winter use COG rate is \$0.7456 per therm.

The changes in the COG rates for high and low winter users are expected to increase C&I customers' winter bills approximately 2 percent. The proposed firm transportation winter COG rate is \$0.0005 per therm compared to last year's rate of \$0.0027 per therm.

The proposed summer COG rate for 2019 is \$0.4445 per therm for residential customers, a \$0.0954 per therm increase compared to last summer's weighted average residential COG rate of \$0.3491 per therm. The proposed changes to Liberty's residential COG rate and LDAC charges are expected to increase a residential heating customer's summer bill by approximately \$16, or 3 percent.

Liberty proposes summer 2019 COG rates of \$0.4417 per therm for C&I high winter use customers and \$0.4506 per therm for C&I low winter use customers, which are both increases from the 2018 summer rates.

A variety of components make up the proposed LDAC charges of \$0.0836 per therm for residential customers and \$0.0772 per therm for C&I customers, compared to the \$0.0856 per therm and \$0.0674 per therm rate, respectively, currently in effect. The proposed charge to recover environmental remediation costs is \$0.0161 per therm, compared to the \$0.0163 per therm rate currently in effect. The proposed energy efficiency and conservation charge is \$0.0450 per therm for residential customers and \$0.0387 for C&I customers, compared to the respective \$0.0516 per therm and \$0.0332 per therm rates currently in effect. The proposed charge to recover expenses and lost revenues related to the residential low income assistance program is \$0.0130 per therm, compared to the \$0.0096 per therm rate currently in effect. The Lost Revenue Adjustment Mechanism is proposed at \$0.0003 per therm for residential and \$0.0001 per therm for C&I customers compared to the respective \$0.0019 per therm and \$0.0021

per therm rates currently in effect. The proposed rate case expense factor is a charge of \$0.0092 per therm, compared to the \$0.0062 per therm currently in effect.

Liberty is updating its Company Allowance (for lost and unaccounted for gas and company use of gas) for the period of November 2018 through October 2019 from 2.1 to 1.8 percent. Liberty also proposes changes to its supplier balancing charges, peaking demand charges, capacity allocator percentages, and short-term borrowing limits.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 374:2, including the justness and reasonableness of rates, the forecasting of sales, supplier prices and transportation prices, the calculation of indirect gas costs, purchasing decisions related to the current and past supplies and capacity/revenue projections related to transportation services and released capacity, the reconciliation of prior period costs and revenues, and the prudence and recovery of environmental remediation. 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 be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., and it is

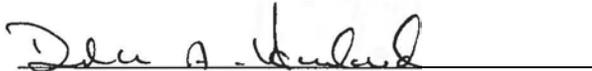
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, Liberty, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition on October 8, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.; and it is

**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 October 2, 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 October 16, 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, October 8, 2018, 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. Rule Puc 203.17; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 11, 2018.

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