



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

Docket No. DG 15-_____

Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities
Petition for Expansion of Franchise to the Towns of Pelham and Windham, New Hampshire

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
RICHARD G. MACDONALD**

August 31, 2015

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

3 A. My Name is Richard G. MacDonald. My business address is 130 Elm Street, Manchester,
4 New Hampshire, 03101-2716.

5 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

6 A. I am employed by Liberty Utilities Service Corp. as the Director of Gas Operations for
7 Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. (“EnergyNorth” or “the Company”).

8 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying today?**

9 A. I am testifying on behalf of EnergyNorth.

10 **Q. Mr. MacDonald, please state your educational background and professional**
11 **experience.**

12 A. In 1977, I received an Associate’s Degree in Applied Science in Industrial Electricity
13 from the NH Community College in Nashua, NH. In 1997, I received an Associate’s
14 Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology from the New Hampshire Technical
15 Institute in Concord, NH. In July of 2012, I assumed the position of Director Gas
16 Operations for EnergyNorth. My responsibilities as Director include managerial oversight
17 of all gas operations and construction processes.

18 From 1977 to 2000, I was employed by EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. where I held
19 various supervisory and managerial positions in gas operations. From 2000 to 2008, I

1 was employed by KeySpan Energy Delivery where I was the Manager of Field
2 Operations and Construction. In 2008, I accepted a position at National Grid as the New
3 England Resource Planning Manager responsible for operating and maintenance work
4 plans and capital construction project planning for the New England region and held this
5 position until 2012.

6 **Q. Have you previously testified before this Commission?**

7 A. Yes, I testified in Docket No. DG 06-045, EnergyNorth's Petition for Termination of
8 Propane Service to Kaunas Circle, Manchester, NH, as well as recent Cast Iron/Bare
9 Steel dockets, DG 13-149 and DG 14-041.

10 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony today?**

11 A. My testimony discusses the Company's plans for constructing and operating a gas
12 distribution system in the Towns of Pelham and Windham, New Hampshire, assuming
13 the Company is awarded franchise rights for those municipalities.

14 **Q. Please provide a general description of the facilities that will be constructed.**

15 A. The Company will install gas mains and service lines, as described in Mr. Clark's
16 testimony, to the initial anchor customers and lead residential and commercial customers.
17 Such construction will include installation of plastic gas mains and service lines, which
18 will be designed and sized appropriately to support the initial customer base, as well as
19 expected growth from customers requesting service during or following construction.

1 These facilities will be installed and maintained under EnergyNorth’s existing
2 maintenance and construction standards and in accordance with industry standards and all
3 applicable codes and regulations, including the U.S. Department of Transportation’s
4 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration statutes and regulations, as well
5 as the Puc 500 rules.

6 **Q. Please describe how the gas distribution system will be constructed.**

7 A. EnergyNorth will utilize its existing contractors -including RH White Construction, Inc.,
8 Midway Utility Contractors LLC and Mears Construction LLC -- with which it has multi-
9 year contracts to provide construction services. Each of these contractors have offices
10 and/or staging areas within EnergyNorth’s service territory, are familiar with the
11 subsurface conditions of New Hampshire, and have considerable experience in the
12 construction of gas distribution systems and facilities. Based on the Company’s initial
13 examination of potential routes for construction in the towns, the gas pipeline will need to
14 go under Beaver Brook in Pelham. The Company will be seeking a license from the
15 Commission to construct and maintain a gas pipeline beneath the creek in the near future,
16 as well as submitting a request to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental
17 Services for approval of the route underneath the Creek.

18 **Q. Has the Company constructed new distribution systems before?**

19 A. Yes. The Company has experienced internal sales and engineering support and
20 experienced field operations personnel who perform the administration and oversight of

1 the construction processes involved in the building of the underground distribution
2 systems. In the last fifteen years, the Company has constructed major managed growth
3 projects in the town of Londonderry along Mammoth Road to New Hampshire Route 102
4 to serve the commercial areas, in the town of Merrimack along Route 3 to serve the
5 municipal buildings and schools and just recently in the town of Hudson to serve
6 Continental Paving.

7 **Q. What is the time frame for construction of the distribution system?**

8 A. Construction of mains and services for the initial area to be served can be completed
9 within 12 months of being awarded the franchise.

10 **Q. How will the Company support the safe operation of the plant and distribution**
11 **system?**

12 A. The distribution system will be constructed and operated in accordance with current
13 established operating and maintenance standards and procedures, with which
14 EnergyNorth has extensive experience. The location of operations personnel to support
15 the day-to-day operation of the proposed gas facilities will be managed from our 38
16 Bridge Street operations facility in Nashua.

1 **Q. Will the Company conduct any outreach to the towns as part of the construction**
2 **process?**

3 A. Yes. The Company will meet with Pelham and Windham municipal and public works
4 officials to determine the specific local requirements for utility use and occupancy within
5 their public Rights-of-Way (ROWs), preferred routes for this project, and both short- and
6 long-term goals for the gas distribution system within each of the towns. EnergyNorth
7 has an excellent working relationship with the New Hampshire Department of
8 Transportation (NHDOT) and will work closely with the state highway road agents and
9 engineers to review and submit any NHDOT road permits for construction. Since the
10 Company coordinates its excavation and restoration activities for its utility maintenance
11 and construction processes in 30 cities and towns across New Hampshire, we have
12 extensive knowledge and experience to accomplish this effectively in a manner that is the
13 least disruptive to local traffic, businesses and residences.

14 **Q. How will the Company meet the emergency response requirements of the**
15 **Commission?**

16 A. The Company has the necessary resources reporting out of the Nashua Operations facility
17 to meet the current emergency response requirements of Puc 504.07. The monitoring of
18 the gas system reliability and dispatching of emergency job orders will be supported by
19 the Emergency Dispatch and Gas Control Center located at Liberty's Corporate office in
20 Londonderry, New Hampshire.

1 **Q. Will the addition of this franchise area place any additional burden on existing**
2 **resources that will impact service to EnergyNorth's existing customers?**

3 A. No, it will not. Gas dispatching, emergency response and customer related functions will
4 be handled from the Company's Londonderry headquarters. Daily operational functions
5 will be managed locally out of our 38 Bridge Street Operations facility in Nashua.

6 **Q. Will the addition of this franchise area require additional employees?**

7 A. No, it will not.

8 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

9 A. Yes, it does.

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