

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

**DE 17-189**

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

**Petition to Approve Battery Storage Pilot Program**

**ORDER OF NOTICE**

On December 1, 2017, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed a petition requesting Commission approval of a pilot program in which Liberty would buy and install batteries and related equipment for up to 1,000 residential customers with the goals of saving transmission costs and studying other potential system benefits. The petition 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 [www.puc.nh.gov](http://www.puc.nh.gov).

In particular, Liberty has requested in its petition that the Commission approve (1) Liberty's purchase of up to 1,000 batteries and related equipment to be installed at participating residential customers' homes, (2) Liberty's assessment of a monthly charge to participating customers to defray some of the costs incurred with respect to the battery storage systems, (3) the inclusion of Liberty's investments in rate base in its next rate case filing, and (4) a time-of-use rate design for residential customers who participate in the battery storage pilot program.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to: whether Liberty's plan to recover certain battery procurement and installation costs through its base rates while separately charging participating customers for a portion of those costs is just and reasonable under RSA 378:7 and non-discriminatory under RSA 378:10; whether the proposed time-of-use rate design for

residential customers participating in the pilot program is just and reasonable under RSA 378:7; whether and when all or a portion of the program costs incurred should be included in Liberty's base rates; whether specific parameters should be established for Liberty's selection of pilot program participants; and other issues regarding program implementation and timing, information availability to customers, data collection and analysis, and customer information privacy protection.

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 Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on January 4, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

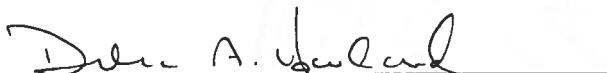
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Liberty, the Staff of the Commission, the Office of the Consumer Advocate, and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition; and it is

**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 December 20, 2017, 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 January 2, 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 January 2, 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. Rules Puc 203.17; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before January 4, 2018.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirteenth day of December, 2017.



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.