THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DE 14-031

LIBERTY UTILITIES (GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC) CORP. D/B/A LIBERTY UTILITIES

2014 Default Service

ORDER OF NOTICE

On January 31, 2014, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed a letter providing a partial schedule for its default service solicitations for 2014. Liberty will release its first request for proposal (RFP) on February 10, 2014 to procure default service for the period from May 1, 2014 until October 31, 2014 for both the Large Customer Group and the Small Customer Group. Liberty makes its default service filings pursuant to the terms of a Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission in Order No. 24,577 (January 13, 2006), 91 NH PUC 6, as modified by Order No. 24,922 (December 19, 2008) 93 NH PUC 600, and further modified by Order No. 25,601 (November 27, 2013).

Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, beginning in February 2014, Liberty solicits default service supply for 100% of its Large Customer Group requirements in two separate threemonth blocks of power supply. Liberty then develops rates for the Large Customer Group based on the winning bid contract prices, with fixed monthly prices that vary from month to month. For its Small Customer Group, Liberty Utilities continues to solicit prices for 100 percent of a six-month block of power supply and sets a fixed rate for the six-month period using a six-month weighted average. With the February 10, 2014 RFPs, Liberty will solicit (1) a six-month power supply for its Large Customer Group by contracting for two separate three-month blocks of power supply with the first such block beginning on May 1, 2014, and (2) a six-month power supply for its Small Customer Group for the period beginning on May 1, 2014.

As stated above, Liberty issues RFPs every six months to procure default service supply for its Large Customer Group, in two separate three-month blocks, and for its Small Customer Group, in a single six-month block. The approximate schedule for public hearings regarding the 2014 RFP issuances is as follows:

March 2014 for the February 2014 RFPs (covering the period from May 2014 through October 2014).

September 2014 for the August 2014 RFPs (covering the period from November 2014 through April 2015).

The Commission has designated Docket No. DE 14-031 as the docket number for all of Liberty's 2014 RFP solicitations. 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 <u>http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2014/14-031.html</u>.

The filing raises, <u>inter alia</u>, issues related to whether the rates resulting from Liberty's RFP solicitations of default service supply are just and reasonable as required by RSA 378:5 and 7, and whether Liberty has procured default service consistent with the principles of the electric utility restructuring statute, RSA 374-F:3,V(c)-(e), and Commission Orders No. 24,577, 24,922, and 25,601. 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 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on March 25, 2014, at 10:00 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 February 18, 2014, 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 March 20, 2014; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, 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 March 20, 2014, 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 RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before March 25, 2014.

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

February, 2014.

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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.

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.

Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov david.wiesner@puc.nh.gov grant.siwinski@puc.nh.gov sarah.knowlton@libertyutilities.com Stephen.Hall@libertyutilities.com steve.mullen@puc.nh.gov suzanne.amidon@puc.nh.gov

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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.