

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

DG 14-155

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

Joint Petition for Transfer of Ownership

ORDER OF NOTICE

On June 6, 2014, Iberdrola USA Enterprises, Inc. (Iberdrola), New Hampshire Gas Corporation (NHGC), and Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. (Liberty) (collectively the Joint Petitioners) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a joint petition for approval of Liberty's acquisition of NHGC from Iberdrola through a stock sale. The petition, pre-filed testimony, and subsequent docket filings, other than 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.

NHGC is a public utility that distributes propane air gas to approximately 1,200 customers in Keene. Iberdrola is a Maine holding company and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Iberdrola, S.A., a Spanish corporation. Iberdrola provides natural gas service to customers in New England and New York through a number of subsidiaries, including NHGC. Liberty is a public utility that provides retail gas service to approximately 86,000 customers in 31 communities throughout New Hampshire.

According to the joint petition, Liberty will buy all the outstanding stock of NHGC from Iberdrola for cash. NHGC will then merge into Liberty. The petition states that Liberty will continue to provide propane air service in Keene under the same terms and conditions of the

existing NHGC tariff. The petition states that Liberty will not seek any rate changes that could affect NHGC customers and Liberty will not seek rate recovery of any acquisition premium or transaction costs arising from its purchase of NHGC.

The petition states the transaction will provide the existing NHGC system with several benefits. These projected benefits include access to Liberty's engineering and operational expertise, increased propane storage, retention of current NHGC employees, access to capital to expand service to other Keene customers, and the potential to convert the NHGC system to liquefied or compressed natural gas. The petition also states that Liberty will not seek rate recovery of costs related to NHGC's arrangement with Keene Propane Corporation.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 374:30, RSA 374:33, whether the proposed sale will have an adverse effect on rates, terms, service or operations of Liberty or the NHGC system, and whether the proposed sale is lawful, proper, and in the public interest. 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 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on June 26, 2014, 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, the Joint Petitioners, the Staff of the Commission, and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow the Joint Petitioners to provide any amendments or updates to their filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the Joint Petitioners shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than June 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 June 24, 2014; 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 the Joint Petitioners and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before June 24, 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 June 26, 2014.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirteenth day of June, 2014.



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
mark.naylor@puc.nh.gov
michael.sheehan@puc.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
patrick.taylor@mclane.com
sarah.knowlton@libertyutilities.com
Stephen.Hall@libertyutilities.com
steve.frink@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.**