

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

DE 15-010

LIBERTY UTILITIES (GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC) d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES

Petition for Approval of Change to Default Service Procurement

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER OF NOTICE

On July 22, 2015, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed a petition requesting approval of revisions to its default service solicitation process.

Liberty procures energy supply for its small commercial and residential customers (Small Customer Group) and medium and large customers (Large Customer Group) when customers have not elected to purchase power supply from a competitive electric power supplier or aggregator. Liberty currently solicits power for its Small Customer Group in six-month blocks of power, and calculates a fixed energy service rate for the six-month period. The six-month periods run from May through October, and November through April. For its Large Customer Group, Liberty seeks power every six months, but solicits power for two, consecutive, three-month blocks of power. For example, for the May through October period, Liberty solicits supply for the periods May through July, and August through October. Liberty bills customers in the Large Customer Group a monthly rate that varies from month to month. The Commission approved Liberty's default service procurement methodology in Order No. 24,577 (Jan. 13, 2006) as modified by Order No. 24,992 (Dec. 18, 2008) and Order No. 25,601 (Nov. 27, 2013).

In the instant filing, Liberty proposes to further modify its default service procurement methodology by changing the procurement schedule for the Small and Large Customer Group.

The purpose of the change is to separate the two highest-priced winter months by revising the six months periods to February through July, and August through January. According to Liberty, this proposal is consistent with the Commission's comments in the hearing on Docket No. IR 14-338, an investigation into alternatives in procuring default service. Liberty states that, in the hearing on IR 14-338, the Commission also stated support for shortening the time from bid to approval, and separating the reconciliation process from the rate-setting process.

Liberty identified barriers to shortening the time from bid to approval, but agreed to make the reconciliation filing at least 30 days in advance of the rate-setting filing. Liberty also proposes transitioning to the new six-month period, beginning with the default service period starting November 1, 2015. To implement the change, Liberty proposes to solicit power for a nine-month period from November 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016 for both the Small and Large Customer Groups in its September, 2015 filing. Liberty said the Large Customer Group would still receive monthly pricing, while the Small Customer Group would continue to be billed at fixed rates for the default service period.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the proposal is consistent with the restructuring principles of RSA 374-F:3, and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable pursuant to RSA 378:5 and 7. 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, pursuant to N. H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, be held on August 11, 2015 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 August 6, 2015, 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 August 11, 2015; 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 August 7, 2015, 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 August 11, 2015.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirtieth day of July, 2015.


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.

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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.