

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

October 23, 2015 - 10:35 a.m.  
Concord, New Hampshire

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RE DG 15-391  
LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS)  
CORP. d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES (KEENE DIVISION):  
*Winter 2015-2016 Cost of Gas.*

**PRESENT:** Chairman Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding  
Commissioner Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey

Sandy Deno, Clerk

**APPEARANCES:** Reptg. Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth  
Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities:  
Ronald J. Ritchie, Esq.

**Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:**  
Susan Chamberlin, Esq., Consumer Advocate  
James Brennan, Finance Director

Office of Consumer Advocate

**Reptg. PUC Staff:**  
Alexander F. Speidel, Esq.  
Stephen P. Frink, Asst. Dir./Gas & Water Div.  
Al-Azad Iqbal, Gas & Water Division

Court Reporter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

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WAIVER OF Puc 1203.05 BY:**

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\* \* \*

**WITNESS PANEL:            FRANCISCO C. DaFONTE  
                                     DAVID B. SIMEK**

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**E X H I B I T S**

<b>EXHIBIT NO.</b>	<b>D E S C R I P T I O N</b>	<b>PAGE NO.</b>
1	Winter 2015-2016 Cost of Gas filing, including the Direct Testimony of Francisco C. DaFonte and David B. Simek, with a Table of Contents, Tariff Page Changes, Schedules and Appendices (09-16-15)	5

**P R O C E E D I N G**

1  
2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Good morning,  
3 everyone. We're here in Docket 15- -- or, DG 15-391,  
4 which is Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp.  
5 Keene Division Winter Cost of Gas filing. We have a  
6 couple of witnesses who have already taken their seats.

7 But let's take appearances first.

8 MR. RITCHIE: Good morning,  
9 Commissioners. My name is R. J. Ritchie. And, I'm here  
10 on behalf of Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas)  
11 Corp. With me today are the Company's two witnesses,  
12 Francisco C. DaFonte and David B. Simek. And, with me at  
13 counsel's table is Steve Mullen.

14 MS. CHAMBERLIN: Susan Chamberlin,  
15 Consumer Advocate. And, with me today is Jim Brennan.

16 MR. SPEIDEL: Alexander Speidel,  
17 representing the Staff of the Commission; Stephen Frink,  
18 Assistant Director of the Gas & Water Division; Iqbal  
19 Al-Azad, Utility Analyst, Gas & Water Division.

20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Why don't we deal  
21 with exhibits, and then have the witnesses sworn in.

22 MR. RITCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
23 I propose to mark for identification as "Exhibit 1", in  
24 Docket DG 15-391, the Company's Winter Cost of Gas filing

[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 for the Keene Division that was filed with the Commission  
2 on September 16th, 2015.

3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: That will be  
4 marked.

5 (The document, as described, was  
6 herewith marked as **Exhibit 1** for  
7 identification.)

8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Off the record.  
9 *[Brief off-the-record discussion*  
10 *ensued.]*

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Would  
12 you swear in the witnesses please.

13 (Whereupon **Francisco C. DaFonte** and  
14 **David B. Simek** were duly sworn by the  
15 Court Reporter.)

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Ritchie.

17 MR. RITCHIE: Mr. Chairman, before I  
18 start with my direct examination of the Company witnesses,  
19 there was one matter of the Company that I wanted to  
20 address to the Commission. Which was, as noted in Mr.  
21 -- on the last page of Mr. Simek's testimony, the Company  
22 would like to make a formal motion requesting a waiver of  
23 New Hampshire Code Admin. Rule Puc 1203.05, which requires  
24 rate changes to be implemented on a service-rendered

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 basis.

2 As the Company explained, I believe, in  
3 its first cost of gas filing filed this year for the Keene  
4 Division, the Company is seeking a waiver, because bills  
5 to its Keene customers continue to be processed in the  
6 same manner that they were prior to the Company's  
7 acquisition of New Hampshire Gas Corporation, which  
8 historically has been on a bills-rendered basis. And, as  
9 a result, customers in Keene are accustomed to rate  
10 changes on a bills-rendered basis, and an alteration in  
11 this policy could result in customer confusion.

12 Further, the system used to bill  
13 customers in Keene is not designed at this time to  
14 accommodate a change to billing on a service-rendered  
15 basis. And, such a change would necessitate modification  
16 and replacement of the system at substantial costs.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Chamberlin.

18 MS. CHAMBERLIN: I don't have a position  
19 at this point. I don't see why it should change at the  
20 moment. But I would like eventually for it to be on a  
21 service-rendered basis.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Speidel.

23 MR. SPEIDEL: Staff shares the same  
24 position. Now that Keene has been consolidated with a

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 larger corporate parent, I think at some juncture it might  
2 be advisable for them to move to a consolidated billing  
3 system.

4 But Staff does support the waiver  
5 request before the Commission.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: It strikes me that  
7 this is the kind of thing we would deal with in the order,  
8 and I think that's where we dealt with it the last time, I  
9 guess it would be the first time this came up. I think we  
10 may have put this issue out of order by taking it here.  
11 But we'll deal with it in the order regardless. I  
12 understand the position you take, and I understand it's  
13 based on Mr. Simek's prefiled testimony, which he is about  
14 to adopt.

15 And, so, I get where it's going to end  
16 up. And, we'll deal with it in the order when it comes  
17 out.

18 MR. RITCHIE: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So, now, I guess  
20 you're going to proceed with your witnesses?

21 MR. RITCHIE: That is correct.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Go for it.

23 MR. RITCHIE: Thank you.

24 **FRANCISCO C. DaFONTE, SWORN**

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

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**DAVID B. SIMEK, SWORN**

**DIRECT EXAMINATION**

BY MR. RITCHIE:

Q. Good morning again, Mr. Simek.

A. (Simek) Good morning.

Q. Would you please state your full name for the record.

A. (Simek) David B. Simek.

Q. And, by whom are you employed?

A. (Simek) Liberty Utilities Services Corp.

Q. And, what is your position with the Company?

A. (Simek) I am a Utility Analyst.

Q. And, what do your duties include?

A. (Simek) Rate-related services for the gas side of the business, EnergyNorth and Keene.

Q. And, do you have before you Exhibit 1 marked in this exhibit -- I mean, I should say "marked in this docket"?

A. (Simek) I do.

Q. And, this contains the Company's Winter Cost of Gas filing for the Keene Division and the Joint Testimony of you and Mr. DaFonte, is that correct?

A. (Simek) Yes.

Q. And, was your testimony that's contained in this exhibit prepared by you or under your direction?

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 A. (Simek) Yes.

2 Q. And, would you briefly explain your responsibility for  
3 this cost of gas filing.

4 A. (Simek) I was responsible for gathering some of the  
5 future rates and calculating the actual cost of gas  
6 rates that we submitted and filed.

7 Q. And, do you have any corrections to your testimony at  
8 this time?

9 A. (Simek) I do. If we could go to Bates Page 6 please.  
10 And, on Line 7, it says "The 92,082 under-collection",  
11 that should state an "over-collection". And, then  
12 also, on Bates Page 11, on Lines 9 and 10, the decrease  
13 on Line 9 of "0.5485" should actually state "0.5437".  
14 And, then, the percentage on Line 10 should state  
15 "38.2 percent". And, then, the "1.4273", on Line 10,  
16 should actually state "1.4225".

17 And, that is all the corrections that I  
18 have.

19 Q. Thank you. And, with those corrections, if I were to  
20 ask you the same questions today that are in your  
21 testimony, would your answers be the same?

22 A. (Simek) With those corrections, yes.

23 Q. Thank you very much. Good morning, Mr. DaFonte.

24 A. (DaFonte) Good morning.

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 Q. Would you please state your full name for the record.

2 A. (DaFonte) Francisco C. DaFonte.

3 Q. And, by whom are you employed?

4 A. (DaFonte) Liberty Utilities Service Corp.

5 Q. And, what is your position at the Company?

6 A. (DaFonte) I'm the Vice President of Energy Procurement.

7 Q. And, what do your duties include?

8 A. (DaFonte) They include the overseeing of the  
9 procurement process on the gas side, for both

10 EnergyNorth and EnergyNorth's Keene Division, as well

11 as the forecasting of requirements for EnergyNorth, as

12 well as the Keene division.

13 Q. And, do you have before you a copy of what has been  
14 marked "Exhibit 1" in this docket?

15 A. (DaFonte) I do.

16 Q. And, this contains the Company's Winter Cost of Gas  
17 filing for the Keene Division, along with the Joint  
18 Testimony of you and Mr. Simek, is that correct?

19 A. (DaFonte) That's correct.

20 Q. And, was your testimony that's contained in these  
21 exhibits prepared by you or under your supervision?

22 A. (DaFonte) Yes, it was.

23 Q. And, would you explain what your responsibility is for  
24 this cost of gas filing.

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 A. (DaFonte) Yes. I helped to develop the forecast of  
2 requirements, as well as the pricing associated with  
3 propane purchases, whether pre-purchased propane or  
4 storage propane.

5 Q. And, do you have any corrections to your testimony at  
6 this time?

7 A. (DaFonte) I do not.

8 Q. If I were to ask you the questions today that are  
9 contained in your testimony, would your answers be the  
10 same?

11 A. (DaFonte) Yes, they would.

12 MR. RITCHIE: And, with that, the  
13 witnesses are available for cross-examination.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Chamberlin.

15 MS. CHAMBERLIN: Thank you.

16 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

17 BY MS. CHAMBERLIN:

18 Q. Recognizing that the Keene system is on propane, how  
19 does the Keene cost of gas compare to the Liberty cost  
20 of gas numbers that we just discussed a few minutes  
21 ago?

22 A. (Simek) Well, the Keene -- the filed Keene rate is the  
23 cost of gas for -- is combined for both residential and  
24 commercial, it's the same rate. And, the proposed rate

[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 is 0.8724. And, the rate that we filed for  
2 EnergyNorth, just give me one minute please, was  
3 0.7516.

4 Q. What are your plans in terms of converting the Keene  
5 system to natural gas?

6 A. (DaFonte) At this time, we're continuing to explore  
7 alternatives, including LNG, CNG, as well as pipeline  
8 options in the future.

9 Q. If the NED Pipeline is built as proposed, would this  
10 have an effect on your plans for Keene?

11 A. (DaFonte) It would give us another option to serve  
12 Keene. And, we would certainly be considering using  
13 that ability to do so, and as well as looking at other  
14 potential customers along the route.

15 Q. And, in your opinion, would customers experience a  
16 price decrease if Keene was converted to another fuel?

17 A. (DaFonte) It would depend on the timing. I think,  
18 right now, with all commodity prices being lower, that  
19 the delta between propane prices and natural gas prices  
20 has tightened a bit. But we don't see that as a  
21 long-term -- a long-term picture for Keene. We see  
22 that, in the long run, that natural gas is certainly  
23 the better fuel of choice. There are some larger loads  
24 there that we think are great candidates for natural

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 gas, and they have expressed their desire to be on  
2 natural gas. The larger loads typically do not use  
3 propane, because of the volume requirements. And, so,  
4 they would typically use fuel oil. And, the difference  
5 between that fuel oil and natural gas is still pretty  
6 significant.

7 MS. CHAMBERLIN: Okay. That's all I  
8 have.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Speidel.

10 MR. SPEIDEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 BY MR. SPEIDEL:

12 Q. On Bates Page 6 of hearing Exhibit 1, there is a  
13 paragraph describing some changes in accounting  
14 methodology. I'm not going to regurgitate them within  
15 the context of my question, but it relates to the  
16 transition between the ownership by the previous parent  
17 company of what used to be New Hampshire Gas, and now  
18 Liberty's ownership of the Keene Division. Could you  
19 provide a summary of those changes and the reasons for  
20 them?

21 A. (Simek) Sure. The reason for the accounting changes  
22 was to keep all of Liberty's companies following the  
23 same accounting process. And, really, the two big  
24 changes there were that we, at Liberty, account for

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 unbilled revenue, which was an accounting change that  
2 we implemented, and also we accrue for the expenses  
3 appropriately to the cost of gas. These accounting  
4 changes have been reviewed by PUC Audit Staff, and they  
5 were agreeable with the changes that we made as well.

6 Q. Could you perhaps go into detail, unless it would take  
7 too much time, about what sort of costs are being  
8 accounted for within these charges?

9 A. (Simek) Of course. Well, basically, for the expense  
10 accruals, the previous ownership just did expense  
11 accruals outside of the actual cost of gas accounts.  
12 So, now that we're truly accounting for the accruals,  
13 we're obviously recognizing the expense in the proper  
14 period of when they were incurred, but we're also  
15 recognizing it in the proper account as well.

16 Q. So, these are commodity costs?

17 A. (Simek) Correct.

18 Q. Okay. I just wanted to check that out. Thank you.  
19 Approximately what percentage of the gas supplies this  
20 winter are hedged, pre-purchased or otherwise tied to a  
21 predetermined fixed price?

22 A. (DaFonte) Under the Company's pre-purchased propane  
23 program, that's a lot of Ps, we are hedging  
24 approximately 56 percent of the expected normal winter

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 purchases. And, if you include the storage capability  
2 that is part of the portfolio this year, that amounts  
3 to an additional 23 percent, for a total of about  
4 79 percent hedged for this winter period.

5 Q. So, that's storage on-site in the Keene area or  
6 off-site nearby?

7 A. (DaFonte) That would be off-site, in the Amherst  
8 facility.

9 Q. Thank you. And, how many gallons, just for the  
10 Commission's information, does the Amherst facility  
11 hold?

12 A. (DaFonte) It's a total of about 600,000 gallons, of  
13 which 300,000 is allocated to the Keene Division.

14 Q. And, that's a part of the Company's responsibility to  
15 maintain a seven-day supply, is that correct?

16 A. (DaFonte) That is correct.

17 Q. Thank you. How does the cost of the hedged supplies  
18 compare to the projected market prices for propane?

19 A. (DaFonte) The hedged supplies, the pre-purchased  
20 volumes, are at this point approximately six cents per  
21 therm higher than the spot market has forecast.

22 Whereas, the storage volumes are about 30 cents below  
23 what the spot market forecast is. So, in totality, if  
24 you look at the two, it amounts to approximately a

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 \$39,000 savings for customers.

2 Q. So, a lot of the recent disruptions in the propane  
3 market is receding into the background, but there had  
4 been Midwestern supply shortages, and use of propane  
5 for crop-drying, and all kinds of ancillary benefits,  
6 kind of a perfect storm, trouble in the New York State  
7 delivery depots, that has receded into the background,  
8 is that fair to say?

9 A. (DaFonte) Yes, it has. It is basically in coincidence  
10 with all of the other commodity price decreases that  
11 we've seen, whether it be oil or natural gas.

12 Q. Thank you. Have there been any other changes in the  
13 Company's trucking, supplier, storage and gas plant  
14 arrangements since last winter?

15 A. (DaFonte) As we just discussed, probably the biggest  
16 change is that the Company now has the availability of  
17 300,000 gallons of storage at the Amherst facility. I  
18 believe last year there was 100,000 gallons of  
19 availability through a contract between New Hampshire  
20 Gas and EnergyNorth. In addition, we've been able to  
21 bring in additional suppliers as part of the RFP  
22 process. And, one of those new suppliers was the  
23 winning bidder for the hedged volumes and some of the  
24 spot volumes.

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 Q. Thank you. You forecasted enrollment in the Fixed  
2 Price Option Program this year at around 30 percent,  
3 compared to 19 percent over the past four winters on  
4 average. Would you have any sense as to why this  
5 enrollment has increased?

6 A. (Simek) Well, on average, it was at 19 percent. But  
7 last year's enrollment number was over 30 -- I believe  
8 it was over 30 percent. And, after speaking at the  
9 Staff at our Keene facility, they were comfortable with  
10 using 30 percent for this year.

11 Q. Thank you. When was the FPO enrollment offer mailed?

12 A. (Simek) On October 1st.

13 Q. What is the expected FPO enrollment as of today?

14 A. (Simek) The expected enrollment is what they already  
15 have enrolled, which is 221 customers.

16 Q. So, their cut-off date has passed?

17 A. (Simek) Yes. It was October 20th.

18 Q. That's a pretty fast response from your customers.

19 That's interesting. Has the Company experienced any  
20 material changes in customer or load growth over the  
21 past year?

22 A. (DaFonte) Nothing material.

23 Q. And, just for the Commissioners' benefit, what was the  
24 unaccounted for gas figure for the Keene system this

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 year? It's kind of been a perennial issue that I've  
2 heard about in the past.

3 A. (Simek) That was at 1.95 percent.

4 Q. That has -- that's a reduced volume, compared to past  
5 years, isn't it?

6 A. (Simek) Unfortunately, I don't know.

7 Q. You don't know. Subject to check?

8 A. (Simek) Yes.

9 Q. You don't know.

10 MR. SPEIDEL: Thank you. Much  
11 appreciated. No further questions from Staff.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner Scott.

13 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Thank you. And,  
14 good morning again.

15 WITNESS SIMEK: Good morning.

16 WITNESS DaFONTE: Good morning.

17 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Usual caveat,  
18 whoever feels most easiest to answer, I suppose.

19 BY COMMISSIONER SCOTT:

20 Q. On EnergyNorth's other division filing this morning,  
21 there was a reference to a desire to look at a yearly  
22 cost of gas, move to a yearly cost of gas filing. I  
23 don't see any of that in here. Is that on your desire  
24 list or is that -- or are you just trying to get a

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 better feel for the new utility here?

2 A. (Simek) Yes. It's definitely on our desire list. We  
3 were planning on initially proposing to work with Staff  
4 and OCA to come up with a plan for EnergyNorth, and  
5 implement that plan, and then move forward and  
6 hopefully begin working with them for a plan for Keene  
7 as well.

8 Q. Okay. Thank you. I was curious to get some kind of  
9 feedback, what are you hearing from your customers?  
10 You know, you did the transition what January, roughly?

11 A. (Simek) January 2nd, yes.

12 Q. And, so, I was curious how that's gone, from a customer  
13 perspective? Are you seeing, you know, customer  
14 complaints, because they -- over confusion or how did  
15 that go?

16 A. (Simek) All feedback that I've received from our  
17 Customer Care team has all been positive, or really no  
18 change. It seemed to actually move seamless, from what  
19 I've heard from customers -- I'm sorry, not from what I  
20 heard from customers, but from our Customer Care group  
21 and the feedback that they have been receiving.

22 Q. And, I assume a rate decrease is probably always  
23 positively received?

24 A. That always helps, yes.

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 Q. And, Attorney Speidel kind of hit a couple questions I  
2 was going to ask you, but I'll dig a little bit deeper.  
3 On the Fixed Price offering, obviously, 30 percent is  
4 significantly more than what you're seeing in your  
5 other division. Is that a reflection of the  
6 volatility, again, as Attorney Speidel mentioned, with  
7 propane and supply issues, transportation issues,  
8 *etcetera* from the past? Or, why do you think that  
9 difference?

10 A. (Simek) The brief feedback that I did receive from the  
11 Keene Division was more of just the dynamics of the  
12 customer. I believe they're much more residential.  
13 And, we have -- again, it's offered to both their  
14 residential and commercial customers. Whereas, on  
15 EnergyNorth, the option is only available to  
16 residential. But my feedback was more that, like I  
17 said, last year was high. And, they just, from what  
18 they were expecting, was that it would be just as high  
19 again this year.

20 Q. And, of course, it's a smaller sample size?

21 A. (Simek) Exactly.

22 Q. And, you've already talked a little bit to the  
23 1.9 percent unaccounted for gas. So, you didn't  
24 really, just to hear you say it again, so, you don't

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[WITNESSES: DaFonte~Simek]

1 really have a feel for why that is?

2 A. (Simek) Oh, why it's at 1.95 percent?

3 Q. Yes. Compared to, for instance, your other division,  
4 which is a lower rate?

5 A. (Simek) I don't know the dynamics or the engineering  
6 behind maybe why propane would be slightly higher. I  
7 know Mr. Speidel had asked if I had a feel for what the  
8 lost and unaccounted for had been previously, and I  
9 think he alluded to it that it was higher in the past,  
10 or that he believed it may have been higher, and that  
11 very well could be the case. But I also believe that  
12 1.95 percent is still acceptable.

13 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: That's all I have.

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner  
15 Bailey.

16 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Thank you.

17 BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:

18 Q. So, what percentage of your total customer base is 221  
19 customers?

20 A. (Simek) I don't know. Unfortunately, the way that we  
21 track FPO usage is more by the usage. So, we don't --  
22 when we're looking at the percentage of the customers  
23 that, when we talk about the percentage of the FPO  
24 participation, we're more looking at the total -- the

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1 percentage of FPO therms, compared to total therms.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. (Simek) And, I'm just not familiar enough with the  
4 Keene Division to know. I believe they have over a  
5 thousand, just slightly over a thousand customers.

6 Q. Okay. All right. Thank you.

7 A. (Simek) So, that would be 22 percent or so,  
8 approximately.

9 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Okay. Thank you.  
10 That's all I have.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I have no  
12 questions.

13 Mr. Ritchie, do you have any further  
14 questions for your witnesses?

15 MR. RITCHIE: No, I do not. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I assume there's no  
17 objection to striking the ID on the exhibit?

18 *[No verbal response]*

19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Seeing none, the ID  
20 is struck.

21 Anything else we need to do before  
22 summing up?

23 *[No verbal response]*

24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Didn't think so.

1 Ms. Chamberlin.

2 MS. CHAMBERLIN: The OCA does not object  
3 to implementing the Keene cost of gas as filed.

4 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Speidel.

5 MR. SPEIDEL: Staff recommends that the  
6 Commission approve the Winter 201516 Cost of Gas filing  
7 for the Keene Division of the Liberty company, and that  
8 would, as usual, be subject to reconciliation.

9 The Staff is pleased that there are some  
10 synergies in storage development between the parent  
11 company and the new satellite division.

12 And, this will have no testimonial  
13 effect, but unaccounted for gas percentages are down from  
14 what they were, say, ten years ago, they were  
15 significantly higher. And, so, Staff is pleased that that  
16 progress is continuing, and would hope that the Company  
17 continue to monitor the condition of pipes and other  
18 physical plant, to make sure that is kept under control.

19 And, we do request that this approval be  
20 granted, together with approval of the waiver request  
21 regarding billing, by November the 1st. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Ritchie.

23 MR. RITCHIE: Commissioners, the Company  
24 respectfully requests that you approve the proposed rates

1 in DG 15-391, in order for rates to take effect  
2 November 1st, 2015. As supported in the Company's  
3 prefiled testimony and the testimony presented here at the  
4 hearing, the Company submits that the proposed rates for  
5 the Keene Division are just and reasonable. They're based  
6 on an appropriate forecast of supply that will be  
7 necessary this winter, and will result in lower rates for  
8 customers as compared to last year.

9 That's all. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Thank  
11 you all. If there's nothing else, we'll adjourn. We'll  
12 get an order out as quickly as we can.

13 **(Whereupon the hearing was adjourned at**  
14 **11:03 a.m.)**