

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

Docket No. 17-198

Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities
Approval of Natural Gas Supply Strategy

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

MICHAEL QUINN

USWA LOCAL 12012-3

September 13, 2019

Q. Please state your name, occupation and business address.

A. Michael Quinn, Construction & Maintenance Technician A and President of USW 12012-03, 38 Bridge St Nashua, NH 03060. I began working in the natural gas industry when National Grid owned this Company.

Q. What is USW Local 12012-03?

A. United Steelworkers Local 12012-03 (“USW” or “the union”) is the local union representing natural gas workers and other employees at Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“the company,” “Liberty Utilities,” or “Liberty”).

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. My testimony is intended to convey the union’s support for Liberty Utilities’ Petition to Approve Supply and Transportation Agreements and the Granite Bridge Project.

Q. How many Liberty Utilities workers does USW Local 12012-03 represent in New Hampshire, and what jobs to those employees perform?

A. We have 104 positions in our local with 4 service positions being vacant.

29- Construction & Maintenance Technicians on street work, 14- Construction & Maintenance Technicians dedicated to damage prevention, 34- Meter Service Technicians, 10 LNG and Propane Production Technicians, 6 Meter Service Representatives, 4 Construction & Maintenance Technicians dedicated to main and service installs, 2 Meter Repair workers, 1 Corrosion Technician, 1 Stockroom Technician.

I also represent the 5 technicians in Keene USW 12012-10 and Liberty’s 35 Customer service and billing reps. USW 120120-09

Q. Are USW workers employed by Liberty Utilities paid a good wage?

A. Yes. Liberty Utilities pays its workers, including our members, a good living wage. Our union has worked with Liberty Utilities through the collective bargaining process to set wage rates that are highly competitive in the industry.

Q. Do USW workers employed by Liberty Utilities receive good benefits?

A. Yes. Liberty offers an excellent healthcare plan thru Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Dental and Vision from Guardian. Our pension plan is a cash balance pension that Liberty contributes to on our behalf. We also have a 401k Plan and a Stock Purchase Program. The Stock Purchase Program allows us to invest back into our Company.

Q. Describe the relationship of USW Local 12012-03 with Liberty Utilities.

A. Our union has a strong relationship with Liberty Utilities. Liberty Utilities recognizes the importance of having a highly-trained workforce, paying good wages, providing benefits, and fostering a culture of safety, accountability, and a commitment to providing excellent service to customers. We consider Liberty Utilities to be a solid partner with a strong commitment to the best interests of its employees and customers.

Q. What is the basis for the union's support of Liberty's petition in this matter?

A. The union supports Liberty's petition for approval of the Granite Bridge project for the following reasons:

1. Without Granite Bridge, Liberty Utilities will be unable to continue to provide natural gas service to new residential, commercial, and industrial customers in New Hampshire. As the representative of 140 Liberty Utilities employees, USW believes it is in the best interest of those employees for Liberty Utilities to continue to expand in New Hampshire. Customer growth will ensure good employment opportunities for our members into the future, and may provide for additional hiring opportunities for employees under our collective bargaining agreement with Liberty Utilities. This facility would also enhance the suitability of New Hampshire for residential and business growth.

2. The long-term employment security of our members will be threatened if Granite Bridge is not constructed. If Liberty Utilities is unable to add new customers, the company's costs will be recovered across an artificially constrained customer base, driving up customer costs and creating downward pressure on our members' wages, benefits, and job security.

3. A great majority of our members are also customers of Liberty Utilities, and may experience higher natural gas bills than they otherwise would if Granite Bridge is not constructed.

4. Liberty has acted in good faith to promote solid labor relations with Local 12012-3. Liberty Utilities and the union have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, dated October 31, 2018, which states in part:

“Specific to this Granite Bridge Project in New Hampshire, it is agreed that any/all Liberty jobs that fall under the job descriptions in USW Local 12012-03 CBA will be filled with USW 12012-03 members. It is also agreed that any creation of Liberty jobs that would fall under the job descriptions of the CBA during or after this project will be performed by USW Local 12012-3 members, subject to applicable articles of the CBA.”

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.