THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DG 16-449

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

Cast Iron/Bare Steel Replacement Program Results

ORDER OF NOTICE

On April 15, 2016, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its fiscal year 2016 (April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016) Cast Iron/Bare Steel (CIBS) Replacement Program Results. As a result of work completed in fiscal year 2016, Liberty seeks a permanent increase in its base distribution rates of $214,434 effective July 1, 2016. The program results and request for a rate increase are filed pursuant to the settlement agreement in Docket No. DG 11-040 approved in *National Grid USA*, Order No. 25,370 (May 30, 2012). 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 http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2016/16-449.html.

Liberty's filing includes a report on actual cast iron/bare steel capital spending for fiscal year 2016, a request for a $214,434 increase in the annual revenue requirement to be recovered through distribution rates effective July 1, 2016, and an explanation of variances from the fiscal year 2016 CIBS budget. Liberty calculated that the proposed revenue requirement increase would add $1 to the $1,309 total annual bill for a typical residential heating customer who uses 800 therms per year, a 0.08 percent increase.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to: whether Liberty's CIBS filing conforms to the requirements of the pertinent settlement agreements; whether Liberty has appropriately accounted for the costs of the CIBS replacement program; whether Liberty's CIBS-related forecasts, budget, and actual expenditures are reasonable and appropriate; whether Liberty has applied appropriate cost-control methods to its CIBS replacement program planning and construction work; matters related to "road degradation" fees assessed by certain New Hampshire municipalities located in Liberty's service area; road-resurfacing "carry-over" costs and whether "carry-over" costs in excess of the settlement cap should be allowed for recovery through the CIBS rate adjustment; whether Liberty's marketing efforts to acquire new customers during main replacements are adequate; and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable as required by RSA Chapter 378. 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 Liberty, the Staff of the Commission, and any intervenors hold a technical session at the Commission offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on May 18, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a hearing be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on June 9, 2016 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 May 11, 2016, 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 6, 2016; 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 May 18, 2016, 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 May 23, 2016.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fifth day of May, 2016.

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.