

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 21-127

LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP. D/B/A LIBERTY

Petition to Approve Special Contract with Granite Ridge Energy, LLC

Order Approving Extension of Special Contract

O R D E R N O. 26,518

September 14, 2021

I. Background

On June 25, 2021, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) filed a petition (Petition) to approve a special contract between it and Granite Ridge Energy, LLC (Granite Ridge), along with the direct testimony of William Killeen and attachments. Through the Petition, testimony, and attachments, Liberty described the purpose of its proposed special contract (2021 Special Contract), the terms of the 2021 Special Contract, the reasons why Liberty terminated its existing agreement with Granite Ridge, and the reasons why Liberty believes that the 2021 Special Contract is just and consistent with the public interest. Liberty's Petition offered statements that special circumstances exist and that the 2021 Special Contract is just and consistent with the public interest pursuant to RSA 378:18. Liberty requested approval of the 2021 Special Contract by September 15, 2021.

On June 28, 2021, the Office of the Consumer Advocate filed a letter of participation in this docket.

On August 27, 2021, Liberty filed the supplemental direct testimony of Deborah Gilbertson, along with attachments. Through the supplemental testimony and attachments, Liberty requested the Commission approve a contractual amendment between Liberty and Granite Ridge that would continue the terms of their existing

special contract (approved pursuant to Order No. 23,657 (March 22, 2001)) on a month-to-month basis until the Commission issues an order addressing the 2021 Special Contract in this docket. The contractual amendment also modified terms of the proposed 2021 Special Contract, including redefining its commencement date as “the first day of the month following the date on which the [Commission] order approving the [2021 Special Contract] becomes final.” Liberty requested the Commission approve that contractual amendment before the expiration of its existing special contract on September 15, 2021.

Liberty’s Petition, request for approval of contractual amendment, and other docket filings, other than information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission’s website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2021/21-127.html>.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission may, by order, allow utilities to charge rates which depart from their standard tariffs when special circumstances exist “which render such departure from the general schedules just and consistent with the public interest ...” RSA 378:18. We find the statements and assertions put forth by Liberty render an extension of its existing special contract with Granite Ridge just and consistent with the public interest. We therefore approve an extension of Liberty and Granite Ridge’s existing special contract as approved in Order No. 23,657 (March 22, 2001), until the first day of the month following the date the Commission order addressing Liberty’s Petition on the 2021 Special Contract in this matter becomes final.

The Company requested a decision on the 2021 Special Contract on September 14, 2021, given the termination of the 2000 Special Contract on that date. With respect to the process going forward in this matter regarding the 2021 Special

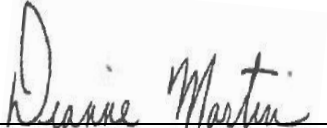
Contract, the Commission notes that the Office of the Consumer Advocate has filed a notice of participation in the docket but has not filed a substantive response to the Company's Petition. The Department of Energy has not filed a response to the Company's Petition. Therefore, the Commission finds it expedient to set a deadline for the Office of the Consumer Advocate and the Department of Energy to provide input on Liberty's request for approval of the 2021 Special Contract. The Commission sets a filing deadline of September 30, 2021, for Office of the Consumer Advocate and the Department of Energy to provide such information through a written filing in this docket and distributed to the service list in this docket.

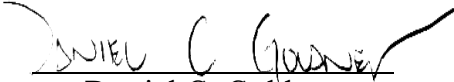
Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty and Granite Ridge Energy, LLC's existing special contract as authorized pursuant to Order No. 23,657 (March 22, 2001) is extended as set forth herein above; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a deadline for the Office of the Consumer Advocate and the Department of Energy to make a filing providing input on Liberty's Petition in this matter, is established on September 30, 2021, as described in the body of this order.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fourteenth day of September, 2021.


Dianne Martin
Chairwoman


Daniel C. Goldner
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-127

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