

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 22-015

**LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP.
d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES - KEENE DIVISION**

Summer 2022 Cost of Gas

Order Suspending Proposed Tariffs, and Rescheduling Hearing

O R D E R N O. 26,615

April 22, 2022

This order suspends the Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities - Keene Division (Liberty-Keene or the Company) proposed tariffs for its Summer 2022 Cost of Gas (COG) filing, outlining its proposed COG rates for the summer period (May 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022), for a period of three (3) months, pending further investigation. The Commission's further investigation will occur through this adjudicative proceeding, and it is expected that the Commission would render its decision on the COG rates by the end of May 2022. This Order provides notice of the rescheduled hearing for May 17, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

On March 15, 2022, Liberty-Keene filed a petition for approval its Summer COG rates. On March 29, 2022, the Commission issued a Commencement of Adjudicative Proceeding and Notice of Prehearing Conference and Hearing order scheduling a hearing for this matter on April 26, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are available on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2022/22-015.html>.

Subsequently, on April 6, 2022, the Commission issued a procedural order requesting that, by April 15, 2022, "...[t]he [New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE)] and Liberty Keene are requested to coordinate to file a copy of the [DOE's] audit report regarding Liberty Keene's proposed Summer 2022 [COG] rate calculations; if the audit is confidential both confidential and redacted versions shall be provided...Liberty Keene shall [also] file its Keene COG model/live Excel schedules." See Procedural Order in Docket No. DG 22-015, April 6, 2022. A subsequent procedural order on April 21, 2022, rescheduled a technical session in this proceeding to April 22, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

No audit report was provided by DOE or the Company, nor were any COG model/live Excel schedules provided by Liberty-Keene, until an electronic filing was made by the Company with these materials after business hours on April 21, 2022, which was made available to the Commission through its Clerk's Office on the morning of April 22, 2022. This was a full calendar week after the requested filing deadline for these materials, and two and one-half business days before the hearing.

Document Properties for the Excel file presenting the Company's COG model/live Excel schedules indicate that the file was last modified on April 5, 2022. Furthermore, the Final DOE Audit Report for this matter is dated February 18, 2022. These are technical documents requiring careful review and analysis by the Commission in advance of hearing on this COG matter. The Company's failure to provide these materials in a timely fashion, despite their evident availability, hampered the Commission's ability to engage in its required review and analysis of the Liberty-Keene COG filing pursuant to the ratemaking standards of RSA Chapter 378, our responsibilities under RSA 374:4 and allied statutes, and our general obligation to ensure just and reasonable rates based on accurate accounting, books, and records.

We require additional time to review these late-filed materials for accuracy and reasonableness. Accordingly, the proposed Liberty-Keene COG tariff pages are suspended for a period of three (3) months pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b), pending investigation and further order of the Commission. We also reschedule the hearing in this matter to May 17, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., and expect to render a decision in this COG matter by the end of May. The Commission will consider the appropriateness of reconciling the Summer 2022 COG rates by the Company to reflect the delay in implementation of Summer COG rates.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the proposed Liberty-Keene Summer 2022 COG tariff pages are suspended for a period of three (3) months pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b), pending investigation and further order of the Commission; and it is

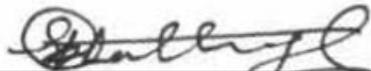
FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a hearing in this matter at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on May 17, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. Three hours shall be allotted for this hearing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the April 26, 2022, hearing originally scheduled for this matter is CANCELLED.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-second day of April, 2022.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-015

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