

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DG 22-045**

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

**Winter 2022/2023 Cost of Gas and Summer 2023 Cost of Gas**

**Order Removing RDAF Under-collection and Gas Holder Costs from October 25, 2022 Hearing; and Requiring Update to LDAC Proposal to Sever RDAF Under-collection Amount and Gas Holder Costs, and Update Rate Case Expenses**

**O R D E R N O. 26,692**

**September 29, 2022**

On September 1, 2022, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp., d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) pre-filed the Supplemental Testimony of Heather M. Tebbetts with attachments. In the cover letter to that filing, Liberty stated that it identified two issues that are likely to be too complex to be resolved in the compressed procedural schedule of the LDAC/COG schedule, and requested that those issues be addressed on a separate timeline. Liberty identified the first issue as the proposed recovery of approximately \$4.3 million through the Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factor (RDAF) to reconcile the 2021-2022 decoupling year; Liberty stated it intends to seek approval of the RDAF as filed with any changes arising from a subsequent hearing being implemented thereafter.<sup>1</sup> Liberty identified the second issue as the proposed recovery of \$69,514 through the Environmental Surcharge to recover costs incurred in 2021-2022 to stabilize the gas holder house in Concord; Liberty stated it will seek approval of the \$0.0004 per therm rate to collect these costs at a subsequent hearing.<sup>2</sup>

On September 21, 2022, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed a motion in “Support of Liberty's Proposal to Carve out RDAF Undercollection and Gas

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<sup>1</sup> Supplemental Testimony of Heather M. Tebbetts at Bates page 6, note 2.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at note 1.

Holder Costs and to Omit Related Cost Amounts from Rates Proposed to be Effective November 1, 2022.” The DOE concurred with Liberty’s requests, and further requested that the Commission direct both the RDAF under-collection and gas holder costs be omitted from rates proposed to be effective November 1, 2022. The DOE also requested that the Commission direct Liberty to make an updated COG filing omitting those amounts no later than October 3, 2022.

The Commission has reviewed these requests, and agrees that severing the RDAF under-collection issue and gas holder costs from the existing procedural schedule is appropriate. Severing these issues from the existing procedural schedule necessarily means that they will not be heard at the hearing scheduled for October 25, 2022, and that rates designed to recover these specifically identified costs will not be addressed in the order following that hearing. Therefore, the DOE’s request to omit all of these costs from recovery through rates effective November 1, 2022 is granted.

Concurrent with the issuance of this order, the Commission also issues Order No. 26,691, which affects the amount of rate case expenses that may be collected through the rate case expense input to the LDAC as proposed in this matter. We therefore direct Liberty to update its LDAC filing to remove RDAF under-collection recovery and gas holder cost recovery from the rates it requests to be approved for effect November 1, 2022, and to reduce the rate case expense recovery amount as directed in Order No 26,691. This filing shall be made as expeditiously as is reasonably practicable, and in no event later than October 7, 2022. The parties shall confer to discuss a proposed procedural schedule for the RDAF under-collection issue and gas holder costs, and propose the procedural schedule to the Commission by October 24, 2022.

To the extent that New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Puc 203.07(e) provides 10 days for objections, it is hereby waived.

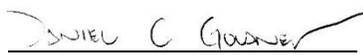
**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

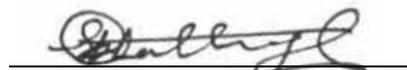
**ORDERED**, that the RDAF under-collection issue and gas holder costs are severed and shall be adjudicated on a separate procedural schedule; and it is

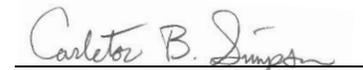
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Liberty shall update its LDAC filing to remove RDAF under-collection recovery, remove gas holder cost recovery, and update rate case expense recovery as directed in Order No 26,691 from the rates it requests to be approved for effect November 1, 2022. This update shall be filed as expeditiously as is reasonably practicable, and in no event later than October 7, 2022; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the parties to this docket shall confer to develop and a procedural schedule for the RDAF under-collection issue and gas holder costs, and propose the procedural schedule to the Commission by October 24, 2022.

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

  
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Daniel C. Goldner  
Chairman

  
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Pradip K. Chattopadhyay  
Commissioner

  
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Carleton B. Simpson  
Commissioner

## Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 22-045

Printed: 9/29/2022

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