

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 25-030

LIBERTY UTILITIES (GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC) CORP. d/b/a LIBERTY

2025 Default Service Solicitations

COMMENCEMENT OF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING AND NOTICE OF HEARING

On April 14, 2025, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) filed a letter containing the proposed schedule for the upcoming default energy service (DS) solicitation and rate-setting review for Liberty's Large and Small DS Customer Groups. This DS solicitation and rate proposal will be for the 6-month period beginning August 1, 2025 and ending January 31, 2026. All docket filings, other than any information subject to confidential treatment, are available on the Commission's website at

<https://www.puc.nh.gov/VirtualFileRoom/Docket.aspx?DocketNumber=DE%2025-030>.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Liberty solicits a portion of the DS supply using a process that the Commission first approved in Order No. 24,577 (January 13, 2006), as modified by subsequent Commission Orders¹. The Commission's most recent delineation of the DS solicitation process was established by Order No. 28,127 (April 8, 2025), issued in Docket No. DE 24-061, in which it directed Liberty to continue to apply a 100 percent ISO-New England market-based procurement approach for its Large Customer Group² and a

¹ See Order No. 24,922 (December 19, 2008); Order No. 25,601 (November 27, 2013); Order No. 25,806 (September 2, 2015); Order No. 26,752 (December 22, 2022); Order No. 26,758 (January 13, 2023); Order No. 26,984 (March 29, 2024); and Order No. 27,058 (October 1, 2024).

² Liberty's Large Customer Group consists of Liberty's large and medium commercial DS customers. Order No. 25,806 at 3.

50 percent ISO-New England market-based procurement component for its Small Customer Group, which includes residential customers taking DS from Liberty.³

Pursuant to its DS procurement process, Liberty will procure the power supply for customers who do not take energy service from a competitive supplier by issuing separate requests for proposals (RFPs) to the competitive energy market twice a year for the 50 percent of Small Customer Group load supplied through RFP-developed requirements contracts. *See* Order No. 28,127, *passim*. The RFPs solicit this 50 percent of power supply requirements for the Small Customer Group for two 6-month periods, one beginning February 1 and the other beginning August 1. *See Id.* The remaining 50 percent of Small Customer Group load, and 100 percent of Large Customer Group load, will be served through Liberty's ISO-New England market procurements, as delineated by Order No. 28,127. *Id.* Liberty's proposed DS rates will also be developed using the Commission-approved DS process. *Id.*

Liberty's April 14, 2025 filing indicated the dates for, among other things: (1) the issuance of its May 2025 RFP for the August 2025-January 2026 DS period; (2) the dates for which RFP indicative and final bids are due; (3) the filing of its DS rate petition and supporting documents with the Commission; and (4) the requested date of the Commission's decision, which is June 27, 2025.

II. ISSUES PRESENTED

The filing presents, *inter alia*, the following issues: whether Liberty's DS power supply procurement process is consistent with Order No. 24,577 (January 13, 2006), as modified by Order No. 28,127 (April 8, 2025), *et al.*, and RSA 374-F:3, V(c)-(e); and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable, as required by RSA 374:2, RSA

³ Liberty's Small Customer Group consists of Liberty's residential and small commercial DS customers. Order No. 25,806 at 2-3.

378:5, and RSA 378:7. Accordingly, an adjudicative proceeding will be convened to address these issues.

The Commission will be conducting any hearings scheduled in this matter in person. The Commission will consider requests to conduct hearings using a hybrid format to permit remote participation by a specific individual only if the Commission has determined that a sufficient reason has been provided for why that individual would be unable to attend in person. Any party requesting that a specific individual be permitted to participate remotely should file a written request with the Commission's Clerk's Office no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing date. If the Commission determines that one or more individuals will be permitted to appear remotely, then individuals in the Commission's hearing room, including the Commissioners, will be broadcast on a web-enabled platform.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that an adjudicative proceeding be commenced for the purpose of reviewing and resolving the foregoing issues pursuant to RSA chapter 541-A, RSA 374-F:3, V(c)-(e), RSA 374:2, RSA 378:5, RSA 378:7, and the Commission's procedural rules; 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 June 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Three hours shall be allotted for this hearing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the New Hampshire Department of Energy is requested to file its position regarding Liberty's petition, including the reasons for this position, on or before June 2, 2025; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any entity or individual may petition to intervene and seek to be admitted as a party in this proceeding. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with RSA 541-A:32, Puc 204.08, and Puc 203.06, any entity or individual seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to Liberty and any other parties on the service list, on or before May 2, 2025. The petition shall state the facts demonstrating how the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with Puc 204.08; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before May 12, 2025; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that parties shall file any proposed exhibits, written testimony, motions, or other documents intended to become part of the record in this proceeding with the Commission in accordance with the Commission's administrative rules. Parties may elect to submit any filing in electronic form unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Filings will be considered filed as of the time the electronic copy is received by the Commission; and it is

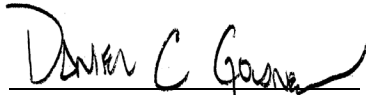
FURTHER ORDERED, that routine procedural inquiries may be made by contacting the Commission's Clerk's Office at (603) 271-2431 or ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov. All requests to the Commission should be made in a written pleading filed with the Commission. Unless otherwise authorized by law, *ex parte* communications are prohibited; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to Puc 204.04, Liberty shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of

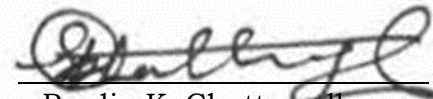
this order of notice on its website no later than two business days after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before April 25, 2025. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than two business days after the date of issue; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any hearings in this matter shall be conducted in accordance with the attached hearing guidelines.

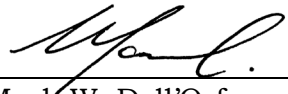
So ordered, this sixteenth day of April, 2025.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Mark W. Dell'Orfano
Commissioner

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the 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.

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 25-030

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