

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 25-030

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

2025 Default Service Solicitations

Order *Nisi* Approving Default Service Rates

O R D E R N O. 28,169

July 17, 2025

In this order, the Commission approves, on a *nisi* basis, the Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty or the Company) default energy service (Default Service)¹ rates for effect for the six-month period of August 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026. These rates were updated by the Company, to incorporate certain technical adjustments, pursuant to the terms of Commission Order 28,164 (June 27, 2025) issued in this docket, which approved Liberty's Default Service solicitation process and resulting contract with a third-party energy supplier for a 50 percent portion of the Small Customer Group Default Service load, which includes residential customers taking Default Service from Liberty. This update was provided by the Company on July 7, 2025, with revised Tariff schedules.

The updated Default Service rate is 12.420 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) to be charged to the Liberty Small Customer Group. This rate incorporates a charge of 0.950 cents per kWh associated with the Company's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) compliance accounting. This is an increase from the 8.416 cents per kWh

¹ The customer bill for those customers that take Liberty Default Service is composed of three parts: power supply, transmission, and distribution. The Liberty Default Service rates for Default Service customers are for the power supply component only.

Default Service rate for the Small Customer Group that has been in place for the February 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025 Default Service period.

For a residential customer using 650 kWh per month, the result will be an increase in the monthly bill from \$148.39 to \$174.42, or \$26.03 (17.54 percent) more, compared to the six-month period ending July 31, 2025.

I. BACKGROUND

The procedural history and Commission rulings made in the earlier phases of this proceeding may be reviewed in Order No. 28,164. This Order, the Company's Default Service petition, and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted on the Commission's website at

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

In summary, the Commission made a ruling in Order No. 28,164 that necessitated the Company's refile of its proposed Default Service rates to incorporate required adjustments. This ruling required that: 50 percent of the Small and Large Customer Group Default Service reconciliation balances would be placed by the Company into deferral accounts, with no interest (carrying charges) to be assessed; the Company would amortize the remaining 50 percent of the Small and Large Customer Group Default Service reconciliation balances through its Energy Service Adjustment Factors (ESAF) rates during the upcoming Default Service rate period, with the proviso that, as with the deferral accounts, no interest (carrying charge) would be assessed to these balances; the Company would provide a recalculation of its Default Service Tariff rate elements, including Time Of Use (TOU) rates and expected Default Service bill impacts based upon this ESAF treatment, to be filed no later than

July 7, 2025. Order No. 28,164 at 8-9. The Commission further indicated that consideration of all issues relating to the purported \$8.1 million Default Service reconciliation balance (discussed at length in Order No. 28,164, *passim*), including the potential for further adjustments and reconciliations, is to be transferred to an adjudication in a future phase of this proceeding, to be noticed by a Supplemental Order of Notice to be issued in late July 2025. The Commission also ruled that insofar as Salem ratepayers continue to remain with Liberty's Default Service, they would be responsible for paying the ESAF rates, and that the Company would be required to present the July 7 rate re-calculation to reflect Salem's load. *Id.* at 9.

The Company filed these adjusted Default Service rates in a filing made with the Commission on July 7, 2025, which included proposed Default Service tariff pages (including TOU rate tariff pages) and bill-impact information, as ordered by the Commission. The Company had represented in an earlier phase of this proceeding that it had included an RPS compliance adder with power supply costs in its calculation of the Default Service rates. The RPS compliance adder is the charge by which Liberty obtains revenue to meet its RPS obligations under RSA 362-F:3. For the upcoming six-month rate period to January 31, 2026, the Company proposed a fixed RPS adder to Small Customer Group customers of 0.950 cents per kWh, and a fixed RPS adder to Large Customer Group (Commercial & Industrial, 'C&I') customers of also 0.950 cents per kWh.

The Default Service rates for the Large Customer Group vary by service month, as listed below:

**Large Customer Group (C&I) Default Service Energy Rates Effective
August 1, 2025 (Cents Per kWh) (Including 0.950¢ RPS Adder)**

August	September	October	November	December	January
10.543	10.194	10.154	11.069	13.327	15.119

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

As held in Order No. 28,164, we find that Liberty's solicitation and bid evaluation procedures, and application of the ISO-New England market-based procurement component for the Small and Large Customer Groups, are in conformity with the Commission-approved process established therefor. We also approve of the Company's application of the Order No. 28,164 directives for reconciliation charges, and its calculation of the RPS adders (including embedded Renewable Energy Credit price estimates) subject to the proviso that they are subject to reconciliation. We also approve the Company's proposed TOU and other ancillary Default Service rate adjustments, subject to reconciliation, as just and reasonable, and in conformity with the governing standards.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, subject to the effective date below, that the Liberty Default Service rates, including TOU rates, for the six-month period beginning August 1, 2025, are hereby APPROVED as filed and discussed herein above; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Liberty is authorized to use its price estimates of renewable energy certificates in its calculation of Default Service rates; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603, Liberty shall file conforming tariff pages, incorporating the new Default Service rates, all as approved herein, within 15 days of the effective date of this order; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Liberty shall post a copy of this order on the Company's website within two business days of the date of this order with an affidavit of publication to be filed with this office on or before July 25, 2025; and it is

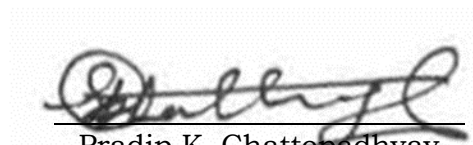
FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this order be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing, stating the reason and basis for a hearing, no later than July 28, 2025; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for a hearing shall do so no later than July 30, 2025; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective August 1, 2025, unless Liberty fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above, or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventeenth day of July, 2025.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner


Mark W. Dell'Orfano
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 25-030

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