

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DE 25-039**

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

**Petition for Approval of an Updated Rate for Single Phase Overhead Line  
Extensions**

**Order *Nisi* Granting Petition**

**ORDER NO. 28,162**

**June 27, 2025**

On June 3, 2025, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty or the Company) filed a petition to adjust its per-foot charge for single phase overhead line extension in excess of 300 feet to \$33.96 per foot (a decrease from the current rate of \$34.47 per foot). Liberty requested that the Commission approve its petition without hearing through an order *nisi* and filed attachments and a technical statement supporting its petition. The New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) submitted a review of Liberty's filing and recommended that the Commission approve the petition by order *nisi*. For the following reasons, the Commission GRANTS the petition consistent with the ordering clauses below.

**I. BACKGROUND AND EVIDENCE**

The line extension rate is the amount that Liberty charges to extend its distribution system to serve new customer locations. Liberty's line extension policies are laid out on Pages 59 through 60 of its electric delivery tariff, which the Commission authorized in Order No. 28,135 (April 24, 2025) in Docket No. DE 23-039.

Liberty is required to update the average cost per foot figures annually based on single-phase line extensions completed during the previous calendar year. Updated

cost per foot amounts are then to become effective on July 1 of each year. Liberty calculated the average actual cost per foot for 34 overhead single-phase line extensions completed during the twelve-month period ending April 8, 2025. Liberty included all actual costs associated with single-phase overhead line extension construction except for the cost of up to 300 feet of distribution facilities (wire). From all line extensions completed in the date range included in this petition, the following types of line extensions were eliminated: (1) temporary services; (2) services not associated with new construction; (3) customer-built line extensions; (4) three-phase service requests; and (5) combination of overhead and underground construction. *See* June 3, 2025 technical statement of Meridith Verner and Robert Garcia at 2-3. This screening removed only one service request. *See id.* Liberty asserts that the costs associated with the requests completed only include the direct costs charged. *See* June 3, 2025 Supporting Schedule. Liberty calculated the total amount spent for the 33 service orders as \$231,193, and the 33 projects required 6,807 feet of total extension. *See* June 3, 2025 technical statement of Meridith Verner and Robert Garcia at 2-3. This equates an average of \$33.96 per foot.

As a result of the calculation the cost per foot for overhead single-phase extensions will decrease by \$0.51, from \$34.47 to \$33.96 upon approval of the proposed tariff. *See* June 3, 2025 Supporting Schedule at 1.

On June 24, 2025, the DOE submitted a technical statement prepared by its staff analyst, Katie McLaughlin. According to the analyst's technical statement, the DOE reviewed Liberty's filing and confirmed that the figures appeared to be accurate and that the resulting rates were calculated consistently with prior Commission orders. The DOE noted that their review was limited due to the timing of the filing. The DOE recommended that for future filings the Company include more information on

each line extension used in the calculation including, but not limited to, the in-service date, work order/work request number, type (overhead, underground, combination), and location (town). The DOE further recommended that the Company also include any/all line extensions that were installed but not used in calculating the new rate (longer than 1 mile, less than 300 feet, etc.) Finally, the DOE requested that the Company file its line extension petitions by April 30 of each year for a July 1 tariff update. See June 24, 2025 technical statement at 2.

## **II. ANALYSIS**

The Commission has reviewed Liberty's filing and accepts the DOE's recommendation that the methodology and calculations are consistent with the settlement agreement approved in Order No. 28,135 and that the resulting rates are just and reasonable pursuant to those orders and the ratemaking standards of RSA chapter 378.

Based on the existing record, including Liberty's sworn testimony and attachments<sup>1</sup>, and the sworn technical statement of the DOE's staff analyst, the Commission finds that Liberty's reported line extension data and costs appear accurate and the resulting rates were calculated consistent with the approved formula and Liberty's tariff. The Commission finds these rates just and reasonable and authorizes them to go into effect.

Finally, the Commission agrees with the DOE that future line extension petitions need to include more information on each line extension used in the calculation including, but not limited to, the in-service date, work order/work request number, type (overhead, underground, combination), and location (town).

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the Commission's June 6, 2025 procedural order, Liberty filed a sworn attestations of facts on June 10, 2025. See Docket Tab #4.

Furthermore, the Company should also include any/all line extensions that were installed but not used in calculating the new rate (longer than 1 mile, less than 300 feet, etc.). Finally, when requesting adjustment to line extension rates in the future, with an effective date of July 1, Liberty shall file its petition no later than April 30.

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

**ORDERED NISI**, that the cost per foot for overhead single-phase extensions will be \$33.96 is APPROVED; as a temporary rates pursuant to RSA 378:27, effective on July 1, 2025, and are APPROVED as permanent rates on the effective date below; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Liberty shall post a copy of this order on its 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 7, 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 17, 2025 for the Commission's consideration; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than July 24, 2025; and it is

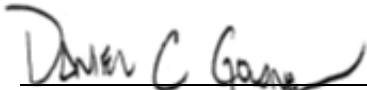
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that this order shall be effective July 28, 2025, unless Liberty fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

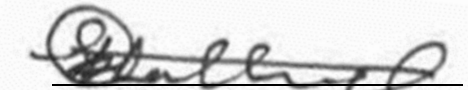
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Liberty shall file a compliance tariff with the Commission on or before July 15, 2025, in accordance with New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Puc 1603.02(b); and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Liberty submit future petitions to update its line extension rate at least sixty days before the effective date to provide sufficient time for the DOE and the Commission to review its filing; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that future petitions for line extension rates shall include more information on each line extension used in the calculation including, but not limited to, the in-service date, work order/work request number, type (overhead, underground, combination), and location (town). Finally, the Company should also include any/all line extensions that were installed but not used in calculating the new rate (longer than 1 mile, less than 300 feet, etc.).

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty seventh day of June, 2025.

  
Daniel C. Goldner  
Chairman

  
Pradip K. Chattopadhyay  
Commissioner

  
Mark W. Dell'Orfano  
Commissioner

## Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 25-039

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