

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 26-015

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

Petition to Set the Keene Division Summer 2026 COG Rate

**COMMENCEMENT OF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING
AND NOTICE OF HEARING**

On March 9, 2026, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) filed a petition requesting that the Commission approve its proposed Summer 2026 Cost of Gas (COG) rate for its Keene Division (Keene Division) for effect on May 1, 2026. In support of its petition, Liberty filed the combined Direct Testimony of the following Liberty Utilities Service Corp. employees: Mark J. Summerfield, Senior Manager, Energy Procurement; Robert Garcia, Senior Manager, Rates and Regulatory Affairs; and Adam R.M. Yusuf, Analyst, Rates and Regulatory Affairs (Joint Testimony); and related attachments. All docket filings, other than any information subject to confidential treatment, are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.nh.gov/VirtualFileRoom/Docket.aspx?DocketNumber=DG%2026-015.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Liberty is permitted to use a COG rate mechanism (COG mechanism) to recover from its Keene Division customers the cost of supply, which includes the cost of propane and compressed natural gas, as well as associated transportation costs, costs that are market-based. *Liberty Utils. (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp.*, Order No. 28,190 at 3 (October 31, 2025). The COG mechanism allows Liberty to quickly pass on increases and decreases in the cost of supply instead of setting rates through a distribution rate proceeding. *Id.*

Liberty sets its base COG rates for a winter period (November 1 to April 30) and a summer period (May 1 to October 31). *See Liberty Utils. (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp.*, Order No. 28,136 at 2 (April 25, 2025); Petition (Pet.) at 1. One base COG rate for each period is set for all Keene Division customers. Order No. 28,190 at 4. The Commission has authorized Liberty to make monthly adjustments to the base COG rate by increasing the rate up to 25 percent above the base rate and decreasing the base rate as much as necessary, without further Commission action, to respond to changes in the natural gas market. Order No. 28,136 at 2.

In this docket, Liberty has proposed a base Summer 2026 COG rate of \$1.2102 per therm. Pet., ¶ 3. This proposed COG rate is lower than the Liberty's Summer 2025 COG rate of \$1.5693 per therm approved in Order No. 28,136, issued in Docket No. DG 25-018. According to the Joint Testimony, after factoring in the monthly customer charge, therm delivery charge, and local distribution adjustment charge, the typical residential customer would see a total bill decrease of \$1.98, or 0.9 percent, for the Summer 2026 period. Joint Testimony at Bates pages 019-020.

II. ISSUES PRESENTED

The filing presents, *inter alia*, issues related to RSA 378:5 and RSA 378:7, including: the justness of and reasonableness of rates, fares, and charges; weather normalization; operational issues; purchasing decisions related to current and past supplies; cost and revenue projections; the revenue and rate impacts resulting from the proposed rate change; and the calculation of per therm costs. 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 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 April 21, 2026, at 1:00 p.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 April 10, 2026; 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 April 7, 2026. 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 April 17, 2026; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the 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 www.puc.nh.gov/about-us/contact-us. 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

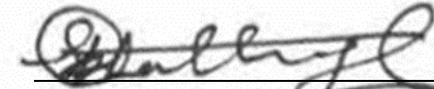
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to Puc 204.04, Liberty shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than two business days after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before March 27, 2026. 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 eighteenth day of March 2026.



Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.
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#: 26-015

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