

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 26-023

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

2026 Default Service Solicitations

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

On April 7, 2026, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) filed a letter containing the proposed schedule for its upcoming default energy service (default service) solicitation and rate-setting review for Liberty's Large and Small Customer Groups. This default service solicitation and rate proposal will be for the 6-month period beginning August 1, 2026 and ending January 31, 2027. 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=DE%2026-023.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Liberty procures power supply for the customers in its Large and Small Customer Groups that take default service from Liberty using a process that the Commission approved in Order No. 24,577 (January 13, 2006), 2006 N.H. PUC LEXIS 3, issued in Docket No. DE 05-126, and modified in subsequent orders,¹ most recently in Order No. 28,199 (December 19, 2025), issued in Docket No. DE 25-030. Liberty procures default service power supply for two six-month periods: February 1 to July 31 and August 1 to January 31. *See Liberty Utils.*, Order No. 27,058 at 7-8 (October 1, 2024) (issued in Docket No. DE 24-061).

¹ *See Liberty Utils.*, Order No. 28,127 at 6 (April 8, 2025) (listing modifying orders).

In Order No. 28,199, in which the Commission approved Liberty's default service rates for the February 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026 period, the Commission confirmed its approval of Liberty's 100 percent Independent System Operator-New England (ISO-NE) market-based supply tranche for its Large Customer Group² and 50 percent ISO-NE market-based supply tranche for its Small Customer Group,³ as initially approved in Order No. 28,127 (April 8, 2025), issued in Docket No. DE 24-061. Order No. 28,199 at 1-2. For its August 2026-January 2027 default service solicitation, the Commission ordered Liberty to apply a proxy-price methodology, in which the proxy price for any energy Liberty procures on the ISO-NE market must be set at the futures price on the Intercontinental Exchange for the New Hampshire load zone, settled 24 months in advance of delivery. *Id.* at 9-11. The Commission also ordered Liberty to file a proposal for implementing a six-month reconciliation cycle for default service balances. *Id.* at 10-11. The New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) has filed a motion for rehearing of Order No. 28,199 regarding these two modifications of Liberty's default service power supply procurement process, which is pending.

Liberty's April 7, 2026 letter requested that the Commission issue an order by June 19, 2026. The Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed its appearance on April 13, 2026, and the DOE entered its appearance on April 21, 2026.

On April 15, 2026, the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) filed a petition to intervene. CPCNH requested full intervention, stating that more than 13,900 of its customers are from Liberty's service territory. Petition, 4, ¶ 5. It argued that it has a substantial interest in the issues raised in this proceeding, such as whether Liberty's default service power

² Liberty's Large Customer Group includes its large and medium commercial customers. *Liberty Utils.*, Order No. 26,643 at 2 (June 20, 2022).

³ Liberty's Small Customer Group includes its small commercial and residential customers. *Id.*

supply procurement process complies with the Commission's prior orders, because its member communities have the choice between default service provided by CPCNH and default service provided by Liberty. *Id.*, ¶s 13-14. According to CPCNH, Liberty and the DOE do not object to its petition, and the OCA's position is unknown. *Id.*, ¶s 16-17.

II. ISSUES PRESENTED

The filing presents, *inter alia*, the following issues: whether Liberty's default service power supply procurement process is consistent with RSA 374-F:3, V(c)-(e) and the process approved in Order No. 24,577 (January 13, 2006), as modified by subsequent orders, most recently Order No. 28,199 (December 19, 2025); and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable, as required by RSA 374:2, RSA 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 CPCNH's petition to intervene is GRANTED pursuant to RSA 541-A:32; 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 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. Three hours shall be allotted for this hearing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the DOE is requested to file its position regarding Liberty's petition, including the reasons for this position, on or before June 2, 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 June 1, 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 June 11, 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

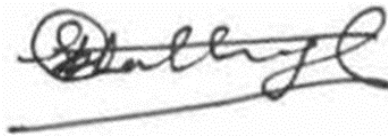
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to Puc 204.04, Liberty shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than two business days after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before May 8, 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 twenty-ninth day of April 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#: 26-023

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