

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DE 26-023

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

2026 Default Service Solicitations

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER OF NOTICE

By this Supplemental Order of Notice, as indicated by the Commission in Order No. 28,231 (June 18, 2026), issued in this instant docket regarding Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty, or the Company) default energy service (Default Service) rates for effect on August 1, 2026, the Commission opens a further phase of Liberty's Default Service proceeding to examine questions related to Liberty's Default Service proxy-price development methodology and Default Service reconciliations, as delineated below. The Commission hereby schedules a hearing for November 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. regarding these matters. All docket filings, other than any information subject to confidential treatment, are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.nh.gov.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

By Order No. 28,231, issued in this instant Docket No. DE 26-023 Default Service proceeding for Liberty, the Commission approved the Company's updated Default Service rates for effect on August 1, 2026 on a partially provisional basis. During the pendency of this proceeding, the parties raised issues regarding two matters of interest to the Commission: (1) the

proxy-price development methodology applied to the 50 percent ISO-New England market-based procurement component for the Company's Small Customer Group Default Service customers, and the 100 percent market-based procurement component for the Company's Large Customer Group commercial and industrial Default Service customers; and (2) the timing of the Company's Default Service reconciliation cycles for over- and under-collections arising from Liberty's provision of Default Service. The Company also informed the Commission in this earlier phase of the proceeding that a \$8.5 million Default Service under-collection for the Small Customer Group, and a \$2.7 million under-collection for the Large Customer Group, had arisen over the past Default Service year. Order No. 28,231 at Page 6. The Company also indicated the assessment of approximately \$2.5 million in Net Metering Credits, as of April 15, 2026, to be recovered by the Company's Energy Service Adjustment Factor (ESAF) rates, as a Default Service reconciliation item. Id.

In response to these developments, to enable further consideration of the provenance of these reconciliation balances presented by the Company, and to avoid rate shock to Liberty's shrinking pool of Default Service customers, the Commission ruled in Order No. 28,231 to maintain Liberty's ESAF rates at then-current levels, on a provisional basis, with ongoing partial deferral of collection of these Default Service reconciliation balances by the Company. Order No. 28,231 at Pages 10-11. With regard to the Net Metering Credit issues indicated by the Company and the other parties to this proceeding, and in response to a petition filed by the Company on June 5, 2026, the Commission issued an order of notice commencing a review proceeding in Docket No. DE 26-035 to assess the Company's proposal to amend its Tariff to implement a new Net Metering Credit Adjustment Mechanism, to be applied to all Liberty distribution customers. The Commission also stated in Order No. 28,231 that it would open a

further phase of this proceeding in July 2026 to consider issues relating to Default Service provision by Liberty. Id. at Page 11.

On June 26, 2026, Liberty filed a motion for clarification of Order No. 28,231, to which the Commission responded with a procedural order issued on July 2, 2026. On July 20, 2026, the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) filed a motion styled as a “Motion for Partial Rehearing of Order No. 28,231, Or, In the Alternative, Supplemental Order Notice,” which remains outstanding, requesting that the “...Commission...issue a Supplemental Order of Notice by July 31, 2026 which directs the parties to establish a procedural schedule inclusive of the following issues, with a timely prehearing conference: proxy-pricing design and use; reconciliation balances, frequency, and timing; spot-market exposure; reporting transparency; load settlement accuracy and related loss factor assumptions; measures to improve competitive neutrality; deviation between rates and actual costs; accuracy of price signals; and consistency with the policy objectives of state statutes, including RSA chapters 374 and 374-F.” CPCNH indicated that Liberty took no position on this motion, that the New Hampshire Department Energy opposed this motion, and that the Office of the Consumer Advocate assented to the motion.

II. ADDITIONAL ISSUES PRESENTED

By this Supplemental Order of Notice, pursuant to RSA 365:5, RSA 374:4, RSA 374:2, RSA 374:F-3, V(c)-(e), RSA 378:5, and RSA 378:7, the Commission opens a further phase of this instant proceeding to consider the following discrete additional issues: (1) whether the proxy-price development methodology for the ISO-New England market-based procurement components for Liberty’s Default Service rates should be adjusted from the current approved methodology to incorporate a market-futures based pricing element going forward; (2) whether

the Default Service reconciliation cycle for Liberty should be shortened from the current twelve (12) months to a semi-annual six (6) month reconciliation cycle; (3) the provenance and accuracy of the current Liberty Default Service reconciliation balances, and whether these balances should be adjusted due to accounting errors or other sources of mis-allocation; and (4) discussion of the best means of working out these reconciliation balances in the Company's rates. These issues will be addressed in this further phase of this adjudicative proceeding. In order to safeguard the orderly and prompt conduct of these proceedings, the Commission will not consider additional issues in this further phase of this proceeding. In the interest of judicial economy, the Commission hereby fixes the final hearing date for this phase of the proceeding in November as ordered below and orders the parties to commence the development of a procedural schedule proposal as also indicated below, but will not schedule a prehearing conference for this phase of the proceeding.

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.

The Commission hereby orders that Liberty collaborate with the parties to this proceeding in the development of a procedural schedule proposal to be filed for the

Commission's consideration not later than September 1, 2026. The Commission expects that this procedural schedule will include scope for discovery, technical sessions, and the filing of party testimony regarding the above-delineated issues within the requirements of the Commission's procedural rules.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

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 November 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. One day shall be allotted for this hearing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a further phase of this adjudicative proceeding will review and resolve the foregoing discrete additional issues pursuant to RSA chapter 541-A, RSA 365:5, RSA 374:4, RSA 374:2, RSA 374:F-3, V(c)-(e), RSA 378:5, and RSA 378:7, and the Commission's procedural rules; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Liberty shall develop and file, in consultation with and in collaboration with the parties to this proceeding, a proposal for the procedural schedule for this further phase of this proceeding on or before September 1, 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 August 14, 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 August 24, 2026; and it is

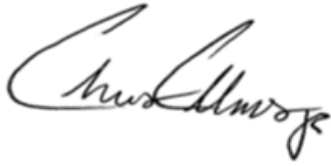
FURTHER ORDERED, that parties shall file any proposed exhibits, written testimony, motions, or other documents intended to become part of the record in this proceeding with the Commission in accordance with the Commission's administrative rules. Parties may elect to submit any filing in electronic form 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 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

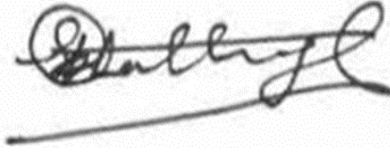
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to Puc 204.04, Liberty shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than two business days after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before August 14, 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 previously issued hearing guidelines.

So ordered, this twenty-ninth day of July 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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