

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 26-026

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

Petition for Approval of an Updated Charge for Single Phase Overhead Line Extensions

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

On April 30, 2026, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) filed a petition to adjust its charge for single phase overhead line extensions, which it revised on May 26, 2026. In support of its petition, Liberty filed the technical statement of Meredith Verner and Robert Garcia, as well as supporting attachments. All docket filings, other than any information subject to confidential treatment, are available on the Commission's website at the PUC Virtual File Room, see [Docket DE 26-026](#).

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

In Liberty's last rate case, Docket No. DE 23-039, the Commission approved a settlement agreement and tariff that required Liberty to file an annual update its per foot charge for overhead single-phase line extensions to be effective on July 1 of each year. Consistent with that requirement, on April 30, 2026, Liberty filed a petition to adjust its overhead line extension rate, which it revised on May 26. On June 2, 2026, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed a technical statement in which it represented that neither the settlement nor approved tariff laid out a specific methodology for calculating the per-foot charge, disagreed with the methodology used by Liberty in the petition, and recommended that the Commission approve an alternative methodology. In response, Liberty submitted a filing indicating that it disagreed with

the DOE's technical statement and recommended that the Commission schedule a hearing to resolve the dispute. On June 22, 2026, the DOE submitted an assented-to filing in which it represented that the parties were discussing a resolution to the dispute, and requested a deadline of July 10, 2026, for the parties to either: (1) submit a settlement agreement resolving the dispute; or, if they are unable to reach agreement, (2) notify the Commission that a hearing will be needed. Both parties seek for the updated rate to take effect on August 1, 2026, rather than July 1, 2026.

The parties have indicated that a hearing may not be necessary if they are able to reach a settlement on July 10, 2026. However, given that the parties are requesting an effective date of August 1, 2026, there would not be enough time to schedule, notice, and hold a public hearing, and then issue an order, before the effective date. Therefore, the Commission will schedule a hearing at this time and, if the parties believe that a hearing is not needed, they can request that the Commission cancel the hearing pursuant to the ordering clauses below.

II. ISSUES PRESENTED

The filing presents, *inter alia*, the following issues: how should Liberty calculate the per footage charge for its overhead line extension rate in light of the Commission's approval of the settlement agreement in Docket No. DE 23-039 and the requirement that all rates be just and reasonable pursuant to RSA 374:2 and RSA 378:7; and, in light of the approved methodology, what should Liberty's updated line extension rate be. 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 374:2, RSA 378:7, and the Commission's procedural rules; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Liberty's proposed tariff, with an effective date of July 1, 2026, is suspended for up to twelve months pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(a), pending investigation and further order by the Commission; 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 July 28, 2026, at 10 a.m. Two hours shall be allotted for this hearing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, on or before July 10, 2026, Liberty and the New Hampshire Department of Energy shall file either: (1) a settlement agreement resolving the dispute between the two parties; or (2) a status update indicating that the parties were unable to resolve the dispute. If the parties resolve the issue by settlement agreement, and all parties agree that a hearing is not necessary, they may request that the Commission cancel the hearing and resolve the petition by order *nisi* in the July 10, 2026, filing. 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 July 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 July 10, 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

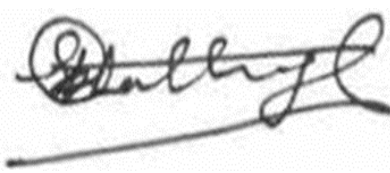
website no later than two business days after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 6, 2026. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than two business days after the date of 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-sixth day of June 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#: 26-026

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