

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 20-049

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

2020 Cast Iron/Bare Steel Replacement Program Results

ORDER OF NOTICE

On April 15, 2020, Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed with the Commission its fiscal year 2020 (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020) Cast Iron/Bare Steel (CIBS) Replacement Program Results, as directed in Order No. 26,266 (June 28, 2019). As a result of work completed in CIBS Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, Liberty seeks a permanent increase in its base distribution delivery rates of \$1,612,633, effective for usage on and after July 1, 2020.

Liberty calculates that the proposed increase in revenue requirement would add \$7.03 to the \$1,162 total annual bill for a typical residential heating customer who uses 809 therms per year, representing a 0.60 percent increase. The program results and request for a rate increase are filed pursuant to the settlement agreement in Docket No. DG 11-040, approved in *National Grid USA, et al.*, Order No. 25,370 (May 30, 2012) and Order No. 26,266 (June 28, 2019), which approved revised delivery rates under Liberty's 2020 CIBS replacement program.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2020/20-049.html>.

Based on the Commission's directives in Order No. 26,266 (June 28, 2019), Liberty's CIBS accelerated recovery program will be terminated upon the Commission's review of, and

determination regarding, the current filing. Pursuant to Order No. 26,266, Liberty's 2020 CIBS Replacement Program submission must exclude paving costs in excess of 5 percent of the approved estimated expenditures for CIBS FY 2021 carried over from the CIBS FY 2020 period without the Commission's Safety Division's approval in advance of the April 15, 2020 filing.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether Liberty's CIBS 2020 results conform to the requirements of the pertinent settlement agreement and Commission directives; whether Liberty has appropriately accounted for the costs of its CIBS replacement program; whether Liberty's CIBS-related actual expenditures are reasonable and appropriate; whether Liberty has applied appropriate cost-control methods to its CIBS replacement program planning and construction work, and road-resurfacing related "carry-over" costs; and whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable, as required by RSA 378:5 and RSA 378:8. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that, consistent with Governor Christopher T. Sununu's Emergency Order #12, the Staff of the Commission, the Office of the Consumer Advocate, Liberty, and any intervenors will hold a web-enabled remote technical session to review Liberty's filing in this proceeding on May 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a web-enabled remote hearing be held before the Commission on June 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Members of the public who wish to access the hearing may do so [by clicking here](#): **If you have any difficulty obtaining access to this remote event, please notify the Commission by calling (603) 271-2431 as soon as possible**; and it is

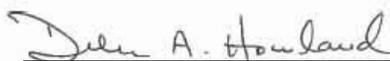
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, Liberty shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice

on its website no later than one day after the date of issue. In addition, the Executive Director shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than one day after the date of issue; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a petition to intervene with copies sent to Liberty and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before June 15, 2020, such petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17. Pursuant to the secretarial letter issued on March 17, 2020, which is posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Secretarial%20Letters/20200317-SecLtr-Temp-Changes-in-Filing-Requirements.pdf>, any party seeking to intervene may elect to submit this filing in electronic form; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before June 18, 2020.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this first day of May, 2020.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, 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# : 20-049

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Email Addresses

ExecutiveDirector@puc.nh.gov
pradip.chattopadhyay@oca.nh.gov
lynn.fabrizio@puc.nh.gov
steve.frink@puc.nh.gov
brian.frost@libertyutilities.com
al-azad.iqbal@puc.nh.gov
maureen.karpf@libertyutilities.com
randy.knepper@puc.nh.gov
jayson.laflamme@puc.nh.gov
catherine.mcnamara@libertyutilities.com
Robert.Mostone@LibertyUtilities.com
steven.mullen@libertyutilities.com
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
michael.sheehan@libertyutilities.com
Christa.Shute@oca.nh.gov
david.simek@libertyutilities.com
karen.sinville@libertyutilities.com