

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 20-053

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

2020 Default Service Solicitations

ORDER OF NOTICE

On April 22, 2020, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed a letter containing its proposed schedule for solicitations of default energy service supply requirements for the six-month period beginning August 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021. Through the solicitations, Liberty purchases power for customers who have not chosen to receive electric service from the competitive market. Pursuant to its letter, Liberty issued its request for proposal for the six-month default service period on May 1. Liberty makes its default energy service filings pursuant to the terms of a settlement agreement approved by the Commission in Order No. 24,577 (January 13, 2006), as most recently modified by Order No. 25,806 (September 2, 2015).

Pursuant to the approved process, Liberty solicits 100 percent of power supply requirements for its large customer group (commercial and industrial customers) for a period of six months in two, consecutive three-month blocks of power supply. Based on the results of the solicitation, Liberty develops fixed monthly rates for each month in the six-month period. For its small customer group (residential and small commercial customers), Liberty solicits a six-month block of power supply and sets a fixed rate for the six-month period, using a weighted average of power costs for the period. In Order No. 25,806, the Commission approved Liberty's request to modify its default service procurement process, so that one six-month default service period begins in the month of February, and a second six-month default service period begins in the

month of August of each year. With this change, the higher-priced winter months of January and February are divided between the two energy service periods, thus mitigating the price spikes ratepayers commonly experienced in the winter months.

Liberty expects to make the default service rate filing associated with its solicitation on June 22, 2020, and will require an order from the Commission by June 29, 2020.

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/2020/20-053.html>.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether Liberty used the approved process for the solicitation, evaluation, and selection of bidders for power supply requirements; whether the resulting rates are just and reasonable as required by RSA 374:2, RSA 378:5, and RSA 378:7; and whether Liberty has procured energy service requirements in a manner consistent with the electric industry restructuring statute, RSA chapter 374-F. 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 Commission will hold a web-enabled remote hearing, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, on June 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Members of the public who wish to access the hearing may do so by clicking: <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Calendar-Remote.html>. **If you have any difficulty obtaining access to this remote event, please notify the Commission by calling (603) 271-2431 as soon as possible.** Parties will be provided with additional instructions prior to the prehearing conference; 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 file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to Liberty and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before June 22, 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 25, 2020.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fifteenth 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#: 20-053

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