

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-063

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

Annual Retail Rate Adjustment Filing

ORDER OF NOTICE

On March 24, 2021, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty) filed a request for approval of annual retail rate adjustments related to its stranded cost charge and transmission service charge. Liberty calculates that the impact of the rate changes for a residential customer using 650 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month would be a monthly bill increase of \$6.73, a 5.86 percent increase from current average monthly bills. The increase is due primarily to increases in Liberty's transmission costs, larger projected under-collections of transmission charges, and lost revenue due to net metering.

Liberty's stranded cost charge recovers a contract termination charge from New England Power Company for termination of an all-requirements power contract prior to the advent of retail competition in Liberty's service territory. The Commission approved the recovery mechanism in Order No. 23,041 (October 7, 1998). Liberty proposes decreasing the current uniform stranded cost charge from a credit of 0.070 cents per kWh, to a credit of 0.080 cents per kWh for the period beginning May 1, 2021. Liberty also proposes changing the reconciling adjustment mechanism (the Stranded Cost Adjustment Factor) from a credit of 0.002 cents per kWh to no charge or 0.000 cents per kWh, due to lower over-collections.

Liberty's transmission service charge recovers costs billed to it through the Independent System Operator-New England (ISO-NE) Transmission, Markets and Services Tariff. The transmission service charge is designed to recover estimated transmission costs for 2021, together with an adjustment for over- or under-recoveries that occurred during the prior period. Liberty forecasts transmission costs and ISO-NE expenses to be approximately \$26.9 million in 2021. This forecast results in an average transmission charge of 3.057 cents per kWh, an increase from the current average charge of 2.545 cents per kWh. The transmission service cost adjustment will increase from a credit of 0.023 cents per kWh to a charge of 0.376 cents per kWh due to higher under-collections.

Liberty also proposes a credit of 0.221 cents per kWh for excess proceeds from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auctions, and a charge of 0.048 cents per kWh to recover lost revenue from net metering.

The initial filing 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 <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2021/21-063.html>.

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether Liberty appropriately calculated the various rates and adjustment factors; and whether the calculations result in just and reasonable rates, as required by RSA 374:2, 378:5 and :7. 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 April 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Members of the public who wish to access the hearing

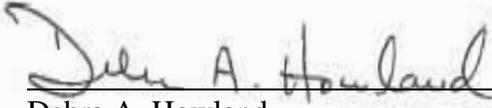
may do so [by clicking here](#). **If you have any difficulty obtaining access to this remote event, please notify the Commission by calling (603) 271-2431 as soon as possible.** Parties will be provided with additional instructions prior to the hearing; and it is

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 business 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 business 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 April 14, 2021, 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 April 14, 2021.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirty-first day of
March, 2021.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Debra A. Howland", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is in dark ink and is centered above the printed name and title.

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# : 21-063

Printed: 3/31/2021

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