

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| In the Matter of Liberty Utilities |) | |
| (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. |) | <u>File No. GT-2019-0268</u> |
| d/b/a Liberty Utilities Filing of its |) | Tracking No. JG-2019-0170 |
| Revised Weather Normalization |) | |
| Adjustment Rider Tariff |) | |

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and respectfully states as follows:

1. According to the terms of its tariff, Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Liberty”) is to file rate adjustments under its weather normalization adjustment rider (“WNAR”) by March 1, 2019. On March 1, 2019, in File No. GE-2019-0251, Liberty requested a temporary variance from this requirement, awaiting the Commission’s decisions in File Nos. GO-2019-0058 and GO-2019-0059, which deal with interpretation of WNAR provisions in Spire Missouri, Inc.’s tariffs nearly identical to those of Liberty’s. On March 1, 2019 the Commission granted Liberty’s request and ordered it to file its WNAR no later than March 15, 2019.

2. On March 15, 2019, Liberty filed tariff sheets (Tariff Tracking No. JG-2019-0170) to revise its WNAR. Liberty requested expedited treatment with an effective date of April 1 – the effective date specified in its WNAR tariff. In support of its request for expedited treatment, Liberty stated that good cause exists for the requested WNAR, because the adjustments would reduce rates for many customers.

3. On March 19, 2019 the Commission granted Liberty’s motion and established a due date of March 22, 2019 for Staff’s recommendation regarding

Tariff Tracking No. JG-2019-0170 and any response to the motion for expedited treatment.

4. Liberty filed four substitute tariff sheets on March 21, 2019.

5. Accompanying this pleading, and incorporated by reference, is Staff's Memorandum recommending Commission approval of Liberty's substitute tariff sheets. Staff does not oppose Liberty's motion for expedited treatment.

WHEREFORE, Staff submits the accompanying Memorandum as directed by the Commission's Order issued March 19, 2019, recommending the Commission approve the substitute tariff sheets filed by Liberty in Tariff Tracking No. JG-2019-0170.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Karen E. Bretz

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CERTIFICATE of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to counsel of record this 22nd day of March, 2019.

/s/ Karen E. Bretz

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. GT-2019-0268, Tariff Tracking No. JG-2019-0170
Liberty Utilities

FROM: Michael L. Stahlman, Regulatory Economist III

/s/Robin Kliethermes 3/22/2019 /s/ Karen Bretz 3/22/2019
Tariff / Rate Design Manager / Date Staff Counsel Division / Date

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation for the **Approval** of the Tariff Sheets Filed by Liberty Utilities to adjust its Weather Normalization Adjustment Rider to go into effect on April 1, 2019.

DATE: March 22, 2019

On March 15, 2019, Liberty Utilities (“Liberty”) filed four tariff sheets to adjust its weather normalization adjustment rider (WNAR) rates with a request for expedited approval of an effective date of April 1, 2019. On March 19, 2019, the Commission directed Staff to file a recommendation on the pending tariff no later than March 22, 2019. On March 21, 2019, Liberty Utilities filed four substitute tariff sheets.

Liberty’s WNAR became effective on July 1, 2018. The purpose of the tariff is to adjust revenues for differences between actual heating degree days (AHDD) and normal heating degree days (NHDD). This is Liberty’s second WNAR filing. Liberty’s current and proposed rates are included in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Current and Proposed WNAR Rates by District and Class.

| District | Current | | Proposed | |
|--------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|----------|
| | Residential | SGS | Residential | SGS |
| Northeast and West | 0.00000 | 0.00000 | -0.01127 | -0.00477 |
| Southeast | 0.00000 | 0.00000 | -0.00159 | -0.00055 |

Because the previous period experienced colder weather than normal in Liberty’s rate districts, the proposed rates for all classes are negative in this filing. This means a residential customer that used 100 ccf in a given billing month would see an approximate \$1.13 reduction in their bill if located in the northeast or west districts, and an approximate \$0.16 reduction if located in the southeast district.

Staff Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the following tariff sheets, as substituted on March 21, 2019, and recommends approval of the following tariff sheets to go into effect for service on and after April 1, 2019, the requested effective date:

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

2nd Revised Sheet No. 67.2 Cancelling 1st Revised Sheet No. 67.2

2nd Revised Sheet No. 67.3 Cancelling 1st Revised Sheet No. 67.3

2nd Revised Sheet No. 67.4 Cancelling 1st Revised Sheet No. 67.4

2nd Revised Sheet No. 67.5 Cancelling 1st Revised Sheet No. 67.5

Staff has verified that Liberty Utilities is not delinquent on any assessment and has filed its Annual Report. Staff is not aware of any other matter pending before the Commission that affects or is affected by this tariff filing.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural)
Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities Filing of its Revised) File No. GT-2019 0268
Weather Normalization Adjustment Rider Tariff)

AFFIDAVIT OF MICHAEL L. STAHLMAN

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

COMES NOW, Michael L. Stahlman, and on his oath declares that he is of sound mind and lawful age; that he contributed to the attached *Staff Recommendation* in Memorandum form; and that the same is true and correct according to his best knowledge and belief.

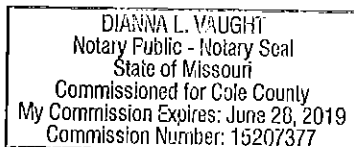
Further the Affiant sayeth not.

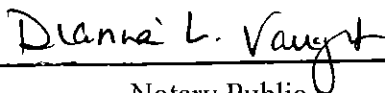


Michael L. Stahlman

JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 22nd day of March, 2019.





Notary Public