

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

In the Matter of the Application of Liberty)
Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp.)
d/b/a Liberty Utilities (MNG) to Change Its)
Infrastructure System Replacement)
Surcharge)

File No. GT-2021-0073

**ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE, SETTING INTERVENTION DEADLINE,
DIRECTING FILINGS, AND SETTING TIME FOR RESPONSES**

Issue Date: January 5, 2021

Effective Date: January 5, 2021

On December 31, 2020, Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, filed an application with the Missouri Public Service Commission pursuant to Sections 393.1009 to 393.1015, RSMo, and Commission Rules 20 CSR 4240-2.060, 2.080, and 3.265, requesting that the Commission authorize changes to Liberty Utilities' Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharges (ISRS). Section 393.1015.2(3), RSMo, requires that the Commission act on the application within 120 days. Therefore, the Commission must issue an order regarding the application effective no later than April 30, 2020.¹

Additionally, Section 393.1015.1(2), RSMo, requires that the Commission publish notice of the filings. Therefore, the Commission will give notice of this application to the general public and any interested persons and set other procedural deadlines.

Section 393.1015.2(2), RSMo, permits the Commission's Staff (Staff) to examine Liberty Utilities' application and to submit a report of its examination no later than 60 days after the petition was filed. Consequently, the Commission will establish a deadline for

¹ Pursuant to Section 393.1015(3) the Commission may hold a hearing prior to reaching its decision.

Staff to file its recommendation. The Commission will also set a time for responses to those filings.

Given the expedited nature of these proceedings, in similar ISRS cases the Commission has ordered Public Counsel to submit any objections to the petitions at the same time as Staff submits its report. In those instances, the Commission also shortened discovery deadlines and required Liberty Utilities to provide discovery answers to Public Counsel at the same time it responded to Staff. The Commission will adopt this expedited procedure in these proceedings.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Commission's Data Center shall provide notice of this proceeding to the county commission, or equivalent governmental body, of all of the counties within Liberty Utilities' Missouri service areas.

2. The Data Center shall also provide a copy of this notice to the parties in Liberty Utilities' last general gas rate case, File No. GR-2018-0013.

3. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make notice of this order available to the media serving Liberty Utilities' Missouri service areas and to the members of the General Assembly representing those service areas.

4. Any entity wishing to intervene shall file an application to do so no later than January 29, 2020.

5. No later than March 1, 2021, Staff shall file its recommendation.

6. No later than March 1, 2021, the Office of the Public Counsel and any other party shall file any objections or hearing requests.

7. No later than March 5, 2021, Liberty Utilities shall respond to Staff's recommendation and any other objections or recommendations.

8. Any other party wishing to respond or object to Staff's recommendation or other objections or recommendations shall do so no later than March 5, 2021.

9. The response times for discovery are modified as follows: For data requests issued after this order, the discovery response time is reduced to fifteen days to answer and eight days to object or provide reasons for a party's inability to answer.

10. This order is effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

John T. Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 5th day of January, 2021.