

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 22nd day of February, 2024.

In the Matter of the Request of Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty to Implement a General Rate Increase for Natural Gas Service in the Missouri Service Areas of the Company)	
)	<u>File No. GR-2024-0106</u>
)	Tracking No. JG-2024-0111
)	

ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF, DELEGATING AUTHORITY, AND SCHEDULING AN EVIDENTIARY HEARING

Issue Date: February 22, 2024

Effective Date: February 22, 2024

On February 9, 2024,¹ Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty or “the Company”) filed proposed tariff sheets to increase its annual revenues by a total of \$13.1 million, with the net increase being \$11.2 million, as \$1.9 million is already being recovered through the Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge (ISRS). The net revenue increase of \$11.2 million represents an approximately 32.57% increase. The Company is also proposing to consolidate the cost of service/revenue requirements of its Northeast/West and Southeast districts. The tariff sheets have a proposed effective date of March 10.

A. Suspension of Tariff

Section 393.150 RSMo (2016), authorizes the Commission to suspend the effective date of proposed tariffs for 120 days, plus an additional six months to allow for

¹ All dates refer to 2024 unless otherwise indicated.

a hearing. To provide sufficient time to determine if Liberty’s proposed tariffs are just and reasonable,² the Commission will suspend the tariffs for 120 days beyond their effective date. The Commission’s experience demonstrates that a full hearing cannot be concluded within 120 days, so the Commission will suspend the tariffs for an additional six months.³

B. Notice of Contested Case

Section 393.150.1, RSMo, allows the suspension of the tariff pending a “full hearing” and decision on the tariff’s propriety. Thus, this matter is a “contested case.”⁴ A contested case is a formal hearing procedure, but it allows for waiver of procedural formalities and a decision without a hearing,⁵ including by stipulation and agreement.⁶ This order and notice does not require any party to file an answer. The Commission also provides notice that its discovery regulations may be found at 20 CSR 4240-2.090.

C. Delegation as to Discovery

The Commission may delegate any adjudicative authority to the regulatory law judge assigned to this action.⁷ To ensure that all discovery disputes are ruled upon expeditiously, the Commission will delegate its authority to the regulatory law judge assigned to this action to rule on discovery disputes raised at the discovery conferences and to rule on all motions to compel discovery.

² Section 393.140(5), RSMo. Unless otherwise noted, all statutory references are to the Revised Statutes of Missouri as codified in 2016.

³ Section 393.150.2, RSMo.

⁴ Section 536.010(4), RSMo.

⁵ Section 536.060, RSMo.

⁶ 20 CSR 4240-2.115.

⁷ Section 386.240, RSMo.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The proposed tariff sheets, Tracking No. JG-2024-0111, filed by Liberty are suspended for 120 days from March 10, 2024, to July 8, 2024, plus six months thereafter, until January 8, 2025.
2. The regulatory law judge assigned to this action shall have full authority to rule on any discovery dispute, including any motion to compel, and may make any such ruling at a discovery conference.
3. The evidentiary hearing is scheduled for October 15-18, and October 21-22, 2024, starting at 9:00 a.m. on October 15, 2024.
4. The evidentiary hearing shall be held at the Commission's office at the Governor Office Building, Room 310, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. This building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodations to participate in the evidentiary hearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.
5. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Dippell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

Hahn, Ch., Rupp, Coleman, Holsman
and Kolkmeyer CC., concur.

Hatcher, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 22nd day of February 2024.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 22, 2024

File/Case No. GR-2024-0106

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Nancy Dippell
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.