

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

In the Matter of Liberty Utilities (Midstates)	
Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty)	<u>File No. GT-2024-0240</u>
Filing of its Revised Weather)	Tracking No. JG-2024-0122
Normalization Adjustment Rider Tariff)	

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF TARIFF SHEETS TO ADJUST
THE WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT RIDER RATES OF
LIBERTY NORTHEAST, LIBERTY WEST AND LIBERTY SOUTHEAST**

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

1. On March 4, 2024, Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty”) filed four tariff sheets to revise its weather normalization adjustment rider (WNAR) rates for Liberty Northeast, Liberty West, and Liberty Southeast Districts to go into effect April 1, 2024. On March 4, 2024, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Staff Recommendation and Setting Time for Responses* (Order) ordering Staff to file its Recommendation no later than March 13, 2024. These tariff sheets have issue dates of March 1, 2024 and effective dates of April 1, 2024.

2. Accompanying this pleading, and incorporated herein by reference, is Staff’s Memorandum recommending Commission approval of the WNAR rates Liberty filed in its March 1, 2024 tariff sheets.

3. The effect of Liberty’s WNAR tariff sheet filings means that residential customers of Liberty’s Northeast and West Districts who used 100 Ccf¹ of natural gas in a given billing month would see an approximate \$4.74 bill increase from current effective rates. The effect on Liberty’s residential customers of its Southeast District who

¹ Ccf stands for one hundred cubic feet of gas.

used 100 Ccf of natural gas would see an approximate \$3.45 bill increase from current effective rates. Staff notes that Liberty experienced warmer than normal weather in three of the rate districts, thus causing the WNAR rates to be positive toward the company when compared to the WNAR rates approved in Liberty's previous WNAR filing.

WHEREFORE, as set forth in Staff's Recommendation memorandum, Staff recommends the Commission issue an order approving the Liberty WNAR tariff sheets, as filed March 1, 2024:

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 67.2 Cancelling Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 67.2

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 67.3 Cancelling Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 67.3

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 67.4 Cancelling Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 67.4

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 67.5 Cancelling Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 67.5.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

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**ATTORNEY FOR STAFF OF THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been transmitted by electronic mail to counsel of record this 11th day of March, 2024.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
File No. GT-2024-0240, Tariff Tracking No. JG-2024-0122
Liberty Utilities

FROM: Francisco Del Pozo, Economist

/s/ Francisco Del Pozo 3/11/2024
Tariff/Rate Design / Date

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation for the **Approval** of the Tariff Sheets Filed by Liberty Utilities to adjust its Weather Normalization Adjustment Rider (WNAR) to go into effect on April 1, 2024.

DATE: March 11, 2024

On March 4, 2024, Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty”) filed four tariff sheets for its weather normalization adjustment rider (WNAR) rates with a requested effective date of April 1, 2024. On March 4, 2024, the Commission directed Staff to file a recommendation regarding Weather Normalization Adjustment Rider (WNAR) tariff sheets in Tariff Tracking No. JG-2024-0122 no later than March 13, 2024. On March 4, 2024, the Commission issued an order in this file that required Staff to file a Recommendation regarding Liberty’s tariff. Staff’s Recommendation is based on these four tariff sheets, workpaper, and the accuracy presumed therein.

Liberty’s WNAR became effective on July 1, 2018. The purpose of the tariff is to accurately represent the semi-annual adjustment made pursuant to Liberty’s WNAR for the six month period ending September 30, 2024. Liberty calculated the rates semiannually to account for variations in temperature within service areas. The calculation of temperature is derived from the difference between the actual heating degree days and the normal heating degree days. Liberty’s current and proposed rates are included in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Current and Proposed WNAR Rates (\$/Ccf) by District and Class.

District	Current		Proposed	
	Residential	Small General Service (SGS)	Residential	Small General Service (SGS)
Northeast and West	-0.02315	-0.01883	0.02426	0.01431
Southeast	-0.00494	0.00542	0.02952	0.01053

Based on the weather variations in Liberty's service areas, proposed residential rates for the both the Northeast and West district and Southeast service areas will increase customer bills. This means a residential customer that used 100 Ccf¹ of natural gas in a given billing month would see an approximate \$4.74 increase in their bill from the currently effective WNAR rate if located in the Northeast or West rate districts. Likewise, a residential customer in the Southeast rate district using 100 Ccf of gas would see an approximate \$3.45 increase in their bill from the currently effective WNAR rate.

Staff Recommendation

Staff has reviewed the following tariff sheets, and recommends approval of the following tariff sheets, as filed on March 4 and to go into effect for service on and after April 1, 2024, the requested effective date:

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

^{12th} Revised Sheet No. 67.2 Cancelling ^{11th} Revised Sheet No. 67.2

^{12th} Revised Sheet No. 67.3 Cancelling ^{11th} Revised Sheet No. 67.3

^{12th} Revised Sheet No. 67.4 Cancelling ^{11th} Revised Sheet No. 67.4

^{12th} Revised Sheet No. 67.5 Cancelling ^{11th} Revised Sheet No. 67.5

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

¹ Ccf stands for one hundred cubic feet of gas.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI


In the Matter of Liberty Utilities (Midstates) **File No. GT-2024-0240**
Natural Gas Corp d/b/a Liberty Filing of its) **Tariff No. JG-2024-0122**
Revised Weather Normalization Adjustment)
Rider (WNAR) Tariff)

AFFIDAVIT OF FRANCISCO DEL POZO

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

COMES NOW, FRANCISCO DEL POZO, 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.

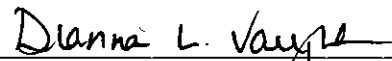
Further the Affiant sayeth not.



FRANCISCO DEL POZO

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 11th day of March 2024.



Notary Public

DIANNA L. VAUGHT
Notary Public - Notary Seal
State of Missouri
Commissioned for Cole County
My Commission Expires: July 18, 2027
Commission Number: 15207377