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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF MISSOURI

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

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING  
VOLUME II  
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024  
12:00 p.m.

Old High School Gym  
200 West Pine Street  
Butler, MO 64730

CHARLES HATCHER, Presiding  
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, Chair (via WebEx),  
MAIDA J. COLEMAN (via WebEx),  
JOHN P. MITCHELL,  
COMMISSIONERS

Reported By:  
Jill A. Bleskey, RPR  
Illinois CSR #084-004430  
Missouri CCR #1467  
Lexitas Legal Midwest  
1.800.280.3376

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## A P P E A R A N C E S

Appearing on behalf of Liberty Utilities:

Ms. Jermaine Grubbs  
LIBERTY UTILITIES  
601 South Joplin Avenue  
Joplin, Missouri 64801  
800.206.2300  
jermaine.grubbs@libertyutilities.com

Appearing on behalf of Office of Public Counsel:

Mr. Scott Stacey  
STATE OF MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INSURANCE  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL  
Governor Office Building  
200 Madison Street, Suite 650  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
573.751.5324  
scott.stacey@opc.mo.gov

Ms. Anna Martin  
Mr. Nathan Williams  
STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STAFF  
Governor Office Building  
200 Madison Street  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
573.522.9061

1 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you very much. We  
2 have our court reporter here. And so with that,  
3 let's go ahead and we will go on the record.

4 Today is August 26th, 2024 and the  
5 Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time  
6 for the local public hearing to give members of the  
7 public a chance to comment about Liberty's general  
8 rate increase application and that is File Number  
9 GR-2024-0106.

10 The Commission regulates the rates charged  
11 by public utility companies in Missouri to ensure  
12 that those rates are reasonable and just. The  
13 Commission also regulates the quality of service and  
14 safety in the operations of public utilities.

15 There are five Commissioners that are  
16 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the  
17 Senate. The Commissioners employ a staff of  
18 engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial  
19 analysts, and other specialists in the field of  
20 utility rate regulation.

21 My name is Charles Hatcher and I am the  
22 regulatory law judge that will preside over this  
23 hearing. With me today on the stage is Commissioner  
24 John Mitchell and I also have Chair Kayla Hahn and  
25 Commissioner Maida Coleman on the WebEx listening in.

1           The Commissioners have not made any  
2 decisions in this case and they cannot answer any  
3 questions today because they do have to remain  
4 impartial until after all of the evidence is  
5 presented. Let's go ahead and do our entries of  
6 appearance. For the Company, Liberty.

7           MS. GRUBBS: Mics a little high, sorry.  
8 Jermaine Grubbs on behalf of Liberty Utility.  
9 Jermaine Grubbs on behalf of Liberty Utilities  
10 Midstates Natural Gas Company doing business as  
11 Liberty. Thank you.

12           THE ARBITRATOR: Thank you, Ms. Grubbs.  
13 And for Staff.

14           MR. STACEY: Scott Stacey, Staff Counsel's  
15 office, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri,  
16 65101.

17           THE ARBITRATOR: Thank you. And Office of  
18 Public Counsel.

19           MS. MARTIN: We are the Office of the  
20 Public Counsel. This is Anna Martin speaking as well  
21 as Nathan Williams on behalf of PSC Staff.

22           THE ARBITRATOR: Thank you. We did have a  
23 sign up sheet out front for anybody that wanted to  
24 testify. I don't have any names on that sign up  
25 sheet so we're just going to open it up. If anyone

1 would like to come forward and testify, give your  
2 opinions to the Commissioners now is the time.

3 And I know it can be a little stressful  
4 and so after I call one more time, if we don't have  
5 any witnesses I'll give you the instructions on how  
6 to submit written comments. I know that appearing in  
7 public is not my favorite thing to do either.

8 Okay. I'll call one more time. If  
9 there's anyone who would like to testify in favor,  
10 against, or just to give your thoughts on the matter.  
11 Okay.

12 I'm going to read my last instructions and  
13 we're going to adjourn the hearing. If there's  
14 anyone that would like to testify.

15 Okay. If you would like to submit written  
16 comments or if you know someone who could not be here  
17 today that would like to submit a comment you can go  
18 to the PSC's web page, and that's PSC dot Mo dot Gov.  
19 In the upper right-hand corner there's a link that  
20 says submit your comment, press that link and then  
21 make sure to enter this case number. And again,  
22 that's GR -- G as in gas, GR-2024-0106. Just make  
23 sure to include the file number there, the case  
24 number and then your comments.

25 I'll call one last time if anyone has

1 changed their mind, if anyone would like to testify.

2 Okay. Thank you all for coming at least to the  
3 question and answer portion. If you do have any  
4 questions for the Office of the Public Counsel you  
5 can email them at MOPCO at OPC dot MO dot Gov, the  
6 Office of the Public Counsel represents the public.  
7 And that's all I have.

8 Thank you all for coming out today. This  
9 hearing's adjourned and let's go off the record.

10 (Hearing was concluded at 12:12 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI                    )  
  )  ss.  
CITY OF KANSAS CITY                )

I, JILL A. BLESKEY, a Registered Professional Reporter, Certified Shorthand Reporter (IL), and Certified Court Reporter (MO), do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was duly taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



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Jill A. Bleskey, RPR, CSR, CCR

<b>1</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>hearing</b> 3:6,23 5:13 6:10
<b>12:12</b> 6:10	<b>call</b> 5:4,8,25	<b>email</b> 6:5	<b>hearing's</b> 6:9
<b>2</b>	<b>case</b> 4:2 5:21,23	<b>employ</b> 3:17	<b>high</b> 4:7
<b>200</b> 4:15	<b>Chair</b> 3:24	<b>engineers</b> 3:18	<b>I</b>
<b>2024</b> 3:4	<b>chance</b> 3:7	<b>ensure</b> 3:11	<b>impartial</b> 4:4
<b>26th</b> 3:4	<b>changed</b> 6:1	<b>enter</b> 5:21	<b>include</b> 5:23
<b>6</b>	<b>charged</b> 3:10	<b>entries</b> 4:5	<b>increase</b> 3:8
<b>65101</b> 4:16	<b>Charles</b> 3:21	<b>evidence</b> 4:4	<b>instructions</b> 5:5, 12
<b>A</b>	<b>City</b> 4:15	<b>F</b>	<b>J</b>
<b>accountants</b> 3:18	<b>Coleman</b> 3:25	<b>favor</b> 5:9	<b>Jefferson</b> 4:15
<b>adjourn</b> 5:13	<b>comment</b> 3:7 5:17,20	<b>favorite</b> 5:7	<b>Jermaine</b> 4:8,9
<b>adjourned</b> 6:9	<b>comments</b> 5:6,16, 24	<b>field</b> 3:19	<b>John</b> 3:24
<b>ahead</b> 3:3 4:5	<b>Commission</b> 3:5, 10,13	<b>file</b> 3:8 5:23	<b>judge</b> 3:1,22
<b>analysts</b> 3:19	<b>Commissioner</b> 3:23,25	<b>financial</b> 3:18	<b>K</b>
<b>Anna</b> 4:20	<b>Commissioners</b> 3:15,17 4:1 5:2	<b>forward</b> 5:1	<b>Kayla</b> 3:24
<b>appearance</b> 4:6	<b>companies</b> 3:11	<b>front</b> 4:23	<b>L</b>
<b>appearing</b> 5:6	<b>Company</b> 4:6,10	<b>G</b>	<b>law</b> 3:22
<b>application</b> 3:8	<b>concluded</b> 6:10	<b>gas</b> 4:10 5:22	<b>Liberty</b> 4:6,8,9,11
<b>appointed</b> 3:16	<b>confirmed</b> 3:16	<b>general</b> 3:7	<b>Liberty's</b> 3:7
<b>ARBITRATOR</b> 4:12,17,22	<b>corner</b> 5:19	<b>give</b> 3:6 5:1,5,10	<b>link</b> 5:19,20
<b>attorneys</b> 3:18	<b>Counsel</b> 4:18,20 6:4,6	<b>Gov</b> 5:18 6:5	<b>listening</b> 3:25
<b>August</b> 3:4	<b>Counsel's</b> 4:14	<b>Governor</b> 3:16	<b>local</b> 3:6
<b>B</b>	<b>court</b> 3:2	<b>GR</b> 5:22	<b>M</b>
<b>behalf</b> 4:8,9,21	<b>D</b>	<b>GR-2024-0106</b> 3:9 5:22	<b>made</b> 4:1
<b>business</b> 4:10	<b>decisions</b> 4:2	<b>Grubbs</b> 4:7,8,9,12	<b>Madison</b> 4:15
	<b>dot</b> 5:18 6:5	<b>H</b>	<b>Maida</b> 3:25
		<b>Hahn</b> 3:24	<b>make</b> 5:21,22
		<b>Hatcher</b> 3:1,21	



<p><b>Martin</b> 4:19,20</p> <p><b>matter</b> 5:10</p> <p><b>members</b> 3:6</p> <p><b>Mics</b> 4:7</p> <p><b>Midstates</b> 4:10</p> <p><b>mind</b> 6:1</p> <p><b>Missouri</b> 3:5,11 4:15</p> <p><b>Mitchell</b> 3:24</p> <p><b>Mo</b> 5:18 6:5</p> <p><b>MOPCO</b> 6:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>N</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>names</b> 4:24</p> <p><b>Nathan</b> 4:21</p> <p><b>Natural</b> 4:10</p> <p><b>number</b> 3:8 5:21, 23,24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>O</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>office</b> 4:15,17,19 6:4,6</p> <p><b>OPC</b> 6:5</p> <p><b>open</b> 4:25</p> <p><b>operations</b> 3:14</p> <p><b>opinions</b> 5:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>P</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>p.m.</b> 6:10</p> <p><b>portion</b> 6:3</p> <p><b>presented</b> 4:5</p> <p><b>preside</b> 3:22</p> <p><b>press</b> 5:20</p> <p><b>PSC</b> 4:21 5:18</p>	<p><b>PSC's</b> 5:18</p> <p><b>public</b> 3:5,6,7,11, 14 4:18,20 5:7 6:4,6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>quality</b> 3:13</p> <p><b>question</b> 6:3</p> <p><b>questions</b> 4:3 6:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>R</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>rate</b> 3:8,20</p> <p><b>rates</b> 3:10,12</p> <p><b>read</b> 5:12</p> <p><b>reasonable</b> 3:12</p> <p><b>record</b> 3:3 6:9</p> <p><b>regulates</b> 3:10,13</p> <p><b>regulation</b> 3:20</p> <p><b>regulatory</b> 3:22</p> <p><b>remain</b> 4:3</p> <p><b>reporter</b> 3:2</p> <p><b>represents</b> 6:6</p> <p><b>right-hand</b> 5:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>S</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>safety</b> 3:14</p> <p><b>Scott</b> 4:14</p> <p><b>Senate</b> 3:17</p> <p><b>service</b> 3:5,13</p> <p><b>set</b> 3:5</p> <p><b>sheet</b> 4:23,25</p> <p><b>sign</b> 4:23,24</p> <p><b>speaking</b> 4:20</p> <p><b>specialists</b> 3:19</p>	<p><b>Stacey</b> 4:14</p> <p><b>staff</b> 3:17 4:13,14, 21</p> <p><b>stage</b> 3:23</p> <p><b>Street</b> 4:15</p> <p><b>stressful</b> 5:3</p> <p><b>submit</b> 5:6,15,17, 20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>T</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>testify</b> 4:24 5:1,9, 14 6:1</p> <p><b>thing</b> 5:7</p> <p><b>thoughts</b> 5:10</p> <p><b>time</b> 3:5 5:2,4,8,25</p> <p><b>today</b> 3:4,23 4:3 5:17 6:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>U</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>upper</b> 5:19</p> <p><b>utilities</b> 3:14 4:9</p> <p><b>utility</b> 3:11,20 4:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>W</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>wanted</b> 4:23</p> <p><b>web</b> 5:18</p> <p><b>Webex</b> 3:25</p> <p><b>Williams</b> 4:21</p> <p><b>witnesses</b> 5:5</p> <p><b>written</b> 5:6,15</p>
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